Rangamar files candidacy for House Precinct 3. PAGE 2
NMTech, CNMI OSHA to host 2nd Annual Safety Conference. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 162

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Voice of America station in CNMI announces closure

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Agency for Global Media has announced that it will be closing its Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station in the CNMI after decades in operation.

The station broadcasts the Voice of America transmission to Asia.

In a letter form USAGM's William S. Martin, director of operations and stations division, a big change is taking place at the U.S. Agency for Global Media's Robert E.

See VOICE on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Station's shortwave radio relay station in Agingan Point.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan past president Mike Sablan served as guest speaker during the group's meeting yesterday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Former public auditor discusses ethics beyond legal requirements

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Ethics is doing what is right, according to Mike Sablan, a former CNMI public auditor, during the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting yesterday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

The former president of the Rotary Club, who is now Triple J's vice president of Finance & Administration, discussed ethics in the CNMI

See FORMER on Page 4

RACQUEL FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan president Joann Aquino presents a certificate of appreciation to Mike Sablan after he served as their guest speaker yesterday at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. Also in the photo is the rest of the leadership of the group.

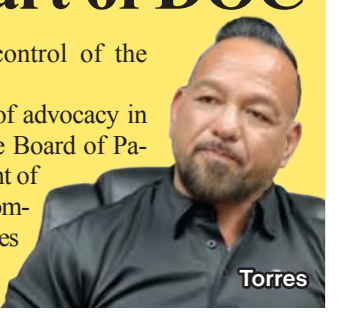
Board of Parole now part of DOC

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has issued Executive Order 2024-008 which essentially transfers the Board of Parole to the Department of Corrections giving the department full control of the CNMI parole system.

After nearly a year of advocacy in favor of integrating the Board of Parole into the Department of Corrections, DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres

See BOARD on Page 4



Torres

Palacios

Palacios: I believe we will make up budget shortfall

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he isn't too worried about the recently reported budget shortfall for fiscal year 2024, stating that he believes the over $3-million shortfall will be made up during the final quarter of FY24.

In an interview with Palacios, he shared that since June, the CNMI administration has

See PALACIOS on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Team Koka had a sweet start for the 2024-2025 school year following the success of its annual Scoops & School Supplier event held last Friday, Aug. 9, at the Housing Basketball Court.

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NATION

Vice President Kamala Harris is trying to outmaneuver former President Donald Trump and address old vulnerabilities on her policy positions as she starts to fill in how she would govern if elected in November.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

The 2024 MTV Video Music Awards have moved to a new date because of the forthcoming U.S. presidential debate.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

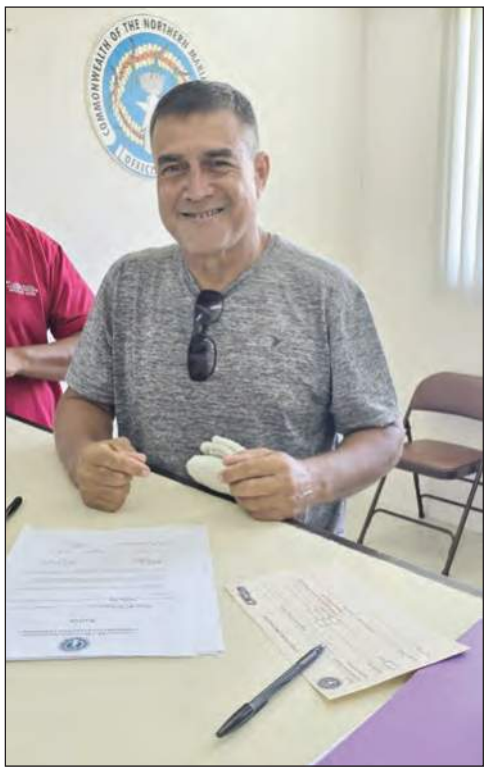
Local

Rangamar files candidacy for House Precinct 3

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD

Independent candidate Elias Rangamar files his candidacy for House of Representatives Precinct 3 last Aug. 6 at the Commonwealth Election Commission.



RACQUEL FLOYD

Elias Rangamar said his guiding principles are transparency, accountability, and community engagement, along with a dedication to listening to people's needs and aspirations.

Elias Rangamar, an independent candidate for House of Representatives Precinct 3, filed his candidacy last Aug. 6 at the Commonwealth Election Commission for the 2024 general elections this coming Nov. 5.

Having spent over 20 years as a sport development officer and over 40 years involved in community service, he came to the realization that many of the challenges that the Saipan community faces need solutions at the policy level.

Rangamar's goal is to bring his passion and experience to the House of Representatives, where he plans to advocate for greater educational resources, stronger support for small businesses, and enhanced community services.

"I'm running for office because I believe in the power of community and the importance of creating opportunities for our future generations. Throughout my career, I've dedicated myself to youth development, education, and sports, seeing firsthand how these areas can shape lives and build stronger communities," said Rangamar.

Furthermore, he mentioned that running for office is his way of sustaining his dedication to service, but on a larger scale.

"I want to ensure that the values of discipline, perseverance, and unity, which I've championed through sports and education, are reflected in the policies that govern our community. I believe that together, we can build a brighter, more prosperous future for everyone in the CNMI," added Rangamar.

The CNMI Sports Hall of Fame inductee came from a close-knit family and proud to honor the legacy of his late parents, Luis Ilo Rangamar and Lourdes Malite Rangamar, who instilled the values of hard work, integrity, and service to others.

He recently celebrated his 60th birthday, which has made him appreciate more than ever the significance of giving back to the community that has been there for him throughout his life.

Rangamar spent two years teaching elementary school on Saipan after pursuing studies in Hawaii at Kapiolano Community College and Hawaii Pacific College (now Hawaii Pacific University). He then worked at Hyatt Regency Saipan, then joined Micronesian Telecommunications Co. and worked as a sales representative before concluding his career as a sports development officer at the Division of Sports and Recreation, where he proudly served for over 20 years.

Rangamar's commitment to sports goes beyond just playing games, it's about using sports as an opportunity to instill life skills, values of discipline, perseverance, and unity in our young people.

"My passion for sports, particularly basketball, has been a cornerstone of my life. I have dedicated over 40 years to volunteer and service activities in sports. My involvement with FIBA (Fédération Internationale de Basketball or International Basketball Federation) and IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) afforded me the incredible opportunity to travel the world, coaching at the highest levels and earning numerous honors and certifications along the way."

His political platform is designed to create a brighter and more sustainable future for the community by emphasizing education, economic development, health, and social welfare.

Rangamar intends to expand healthcare access by promoting preventive care, enhancing mental health support, and expanding essential services. Social welfare initiatives include strengthening community programs, supporting vulnerable populations, and promoting cultural preservation.

He added that his guiding principles are transparency, accountability, and community engagement, along with a dedication to listening to people's needs and aspirations.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI SPJ to host delegate forum on Aug. 17

The CNMI Society of Professional Journalists will host a delegate forum at 1pm on Saturday, Aug. 17.

All five candidates running for CNMI delegate have confirmed their participation-Democrat Edwin K. Propst, Republican Kimberlyn King-Hind, and independent candidates James Rayphand, John Oliver Gonzales, and Liana Hofschneider.

The forum will be streamed live on the CNMI Society of Professional Journalists Facebook page. CNMI SPJ will not host a live audience due to capacity.

The forum will cover national politics, the economy, and the military. The forum will begin with a 1-minute opening statement from each candidate, then will transition to the first category about national politics where everyone will have 2 minutes to respond to the same question. The economy and military rounds will feature questions where each candidate will answer a question for 2 minutes and other candidates can respond for 30 seconds. The forum will end with a 3-minute closing statement from all candidates.

CNMI SPJ encourages a healthy and civil discussion for the community to learn about each candidate. CNMI SPJ was recently re-established after 30 years. Its members represent all local media: *Marianas Variety*, *Saipan Tribune*, KSPN2 News, KUAM News, and NMI News Service. The Society of Professional Journalists promotes the free flow of information vital to a well-informed citizenry through the daily work of its roughly 6,000 members nationwide. ***(PR)***

Early Intervention Program's ICC meeting on Aug. 15

The CNMI Public School System's Early Intervention Program's Interagency Coordinating Council will have a meeting thus Thursday, Aug. 15, from 9am to 11am via teleconference (Zoom).

Meeting link and details will be provided upon request if not sent. You may contact the Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841 for more information. ***(PR)***

Call for nominations for 2024 Governor's Humanities awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is inviting the general public to nominate deserving individuals or organizations for a 2024 Governor's Humanities Award.

Each year, the council works in collaboration with the Office of the Governor to honor and recognize individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions to the humanities in the CNMI community.

Nominations should be limited to contributions in one or more of the following categories:

- Research and publication in the humanities
- Outstanding humanities teacher (in or out of the classroom setting)
- Preservation of CNMI history
- Preservation of traditional cultural practices
- Lifetime achievement in the humanities

Nominations can be submitted by scanning the QR code below. To download a copy of the PDF version of the nomination form visit the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's website at http://nmh-council.org/gha.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Sept. 23, 2024. Awardees will be recognized in October during Humanities Month. ***(PR)***

NMTech, CNMI OSHA to host 2nd Annual Safety Conference

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute, in partnership with CNMI OSHA, is set to host the 2nd Annual Safety Conference on Aug. 19-20, 2024.

This event, scheduled to take place at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan from 7:30am to 4:30pm, brings together industry professionals and safety experts from across the region to provide invaluable training and education on critical safety issues.

The two-day conference is a collaboration between NMTech, CNMI OSHA, the Guam Contractors Association, and the University of California, San Diego and promises a comprehensive lineup of safety-focused classes.

Monday's sessions will cover vital topics such as Fall Protection, Scaffolding, Heat Illness, Focus 4 Hazards, and Health Hazards. On Tuesday, participants will dive into Lock Out Tag Out procedures, Noise Pollution, and further discussions on Focus 4 Hazards and Heat Illness. Each class will be accompanied by a certificate from UCSD OSHA, adding a layer of formal recognition to the attendees' newfound knowledge.

Jodina Attao, CEO of NMTech, expressed enthusiasm for the conference, highlighting the institute's commitment to fostering safer working conditions across the CNMI, particularly in the trades. "One of NMTech's goals is to promote and improve safety working conditions for everyone in the CNMI, especially in jobs in the trades. Together with our partners, we host this conference for the second year in a row to educate and increase best practices on our islands," Attao said. She extended an invitation to the community to participate in the event, emphasizing the value of learning from industry professionals arriving from San Diego and Guam. "A huge thank you to everyone on our team for making this event possible!"

Timothy Asaivao, project manager for CNMI-OSHA Consultation, echoed this sentiment, underscoring the importance of safety education for the CNMI workforce.

"As the safety conference continues for a second year, we are very grateful to our partners, NMTECH, GCA, MSHA, and UCSD. Attending these trainings is a great investment for our workers here in the CNMI. Keeping our workers safe begins with education. These workers are the bloodline of our community. They fix our roads, build our schools, and bring power to our houses. The goal is to always have workers return to their families in the same condition they left in—safe and healthy."

The conference is a significant opportunity for local workers and employers to gain critical insights into safety protocols and best practices, helping to ensure that the CNMI's workforce remains protected and well-informed. As workplace safety continues to be a pressing issue, events like this one are crucial in maintaining and improving safety standards across the islands. NMTech and CNMI OSHA extend a warm invitation to community members to participate in the event.

For those interested in attending, further details and registration information can be obtained by contacting project coordinator Aaron Tomokane at aaron.tomokane@nmtechcnmi.org. Payments must be made at Northern Marianas Technical Institute. Additional information is also available on the NMTech website at www.nmtechcnmi.org.

PET OF THE WEEK

Bea

Meet Bea! She's 2 years old and looking for a furever home. Although she enjoys the outdoors, this baby girl loves being a homebody and hanging out with friends, whether other doggy companions, kids, and even cats, her big heart has room. Bea doesn't mind car rides or being on a leash as long as she's with a special someone who loves her. She's hoping to find her person soon.

For inquiries about Bea or other furbabies up for adoption, as well as needed veterinary services please reach out to Saipan Humane Society at info@saipanhumanesociety.org or WhatsApp (670) 838-7387.

Saipan Tribune is partnering with Lauren Cabrera, founder of the Saipan Humane Society and her team, to feature their adoptable dogs into loving homes. ***(PR)***

SHS

Pet of the Week Bea is looking for a furever home.

Cong Nie, F0497
BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER, LLC
First Floor, Macaranas Building
4165 Beach Road, Garapan
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-5684
Fax: (670) 234-5683
Email: dnie@pacificlawyers.law

Attorneys for Co-Petitioners Arlene DLG. Carbullido and Nicole DLG. Pamintuan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
PEDRO ROGOLIFOI DELEON GUERRERO (dob: 11/3/1943),
Deceased,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0184 CV
NOTICE OF PETITION TO APPOINT EXECUTRIX AND FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY
Date: Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024
Time: 10:00 am
Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF PEDRO ROGOLIFOI DELEON GUERRERO, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Co-Petitioners Arlene DLG. Carbullido and Nicole DLG. Pamintuan, has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Letters Testamentary in the above-captioned matter. The attorney of record representing is Cong Nie of the Law Firm of Banes Horey Berman & Miller, LLC, P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950.

The petition is set for hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at the CNMI Superior Court in Courtroom No. ___. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned matter.

Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or of her estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 9th day of August, 2024.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

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DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-GOV/OGM-42400133

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 06, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE CLASS "F" VEHICLE FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND STATE CLEARINGHOUSE, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ Ephiphanio E. Cabrera, Jr.
STATE ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/s/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DCCA/CCDF-42400136

SUBMISSION DATE: August 28, 2024
TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS "F" VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS / CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL AT (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BUILDING NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARIBEL D. LOSTE AT CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND, AT (670) 664-2573 OR (670)664-2590.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS OF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIBEL D. LOSTE
CCDF DIRECTOR

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

BOARD

From page 1

shared that it has finally become a reality through an executive order issued by the CNMI administration last August 9.

"I have been advocating for Parole to come under DOC since around October of last year. I conveyed how the operations needed to be separate from the board. By separating operations from decision making, there would be a clear line of accountability and oversight within the parole system," shared Torres.

Initially, back in June, the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations unanimously passed a bill to integrate the Board of Parole into the Department of Corrections.

However, last Friday, Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang issued Executive Order 2024-008 transferring the Board of Parole to DOC.

"It will now be called the Division of Parole within the Department of Corrections. This executive order specifically outlines the transfer of responsibility for the administration and operation of parole from the Board of Parole to the Department of Corrections," Torres said.

With the transfer, Torres explains he now holds expenditure authority responsible for the services, programs, administration and operations for parole.

"I am proud to say that this will enhance our mission and vision of providing public safety through rehabilitation and operational excellence. I want to thank Gov. Palacios and Lt. Gov. Apatang for their support in helping make this happen," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres appeared before the JGO committee meeting last June to provide his comments in advocacy of the bill to integrate the Board of Parole into the Department of Corrections.

"The transition from incarceration to freedom is a critical phase in an individual's journey into rehabilitation and successful reintegration into society. By bringing the parole system within the purview of the DOC, we will be able to provide a seamless, continuum of care and supervision for individuals under our charge," he said.

Torres said DOC is already continuously working to being in the forefront of providing rehabilitation services and preparing individuals for their return to society.

"By extending our responsibility to include parole, we can assure a more coordinated approach to re-entry with a focus on continuity of care and support. Consolidating the parole system within the DOC will not only streamline processes, but it would also allow for better collaboration and communication between all stages of the justice system. This integration will enable us to provide more personalized and effective support to individuals as they navigate challenges of re-entering society," he said.

Torres told the committee that with Parole under DOC, DOC would have parole policies and procedures aligned with a broader rehabilitation, reintegration, and reduction of recidivism goals.

"By offering parole, the department will aim to promote the successful re-entry of individuals into society while reducing the likelihood of repeating criminal behavior. Parole allows inmates to reintegrate gradually with support and supervision while maintaining a sense of responsibility and accountability. By assessing eligibility and specific parole conditions, DOC would prioritize the rehabilitation of inmates and their successful reintegration back into the community. This approach emphasizes addressing underlying issues that may contribute to criminal behavior such as substance abuse or mental health issues," he said.

FORMER

From page 1

government and said the ethics law in the U.S. is one of the strictest in the entire world and has not changed since 1992. The law was drafted based on a template from one of the state governments in the U.S. and has only undergone one revision since its inception.

Sablan said understanding ethics encompasses religious beliefs, moral values, and legal standards while personal ethics should exceed the minimum legal requirements. Ethics involves doing the right thing regardless of legal constraints.

The former public auditor shared his experiences in implementing spending regulations during his time as a public auditor that reflected the complexities of campaign finance regulations and the need for clear guidelines on contribution limits.

Sablan also emphasized the CNMI constitutional mandate wherein the Legislature shall enact a comprehensive code of ethics that shall apply to appointed and elected officers, employees of the Commonwealth, and its political subdivisions, including members of boards, commissions, and other instrumentalities.

He also mentioned the four key sections of the Ethics Act which are the gifts and gratuities, conflicts of interest, political activities, and disclosure requirements.

Government officials are required to disclose financial assets to prevent potential conflicts of interest, according to Sablan.

He also mentioned that some laws are restricted-oriented while others are disclosure-oriented.

"Other states have restricted-oriented, which means that there are certain things we just cannot do, you're restricted. Others have these laws at the other end of the spectrum, which are more disclosure-oriented ethics law, and that says you can't accept gifts in certain situations, but if you do, it's OK as long as you disclose it. Hawaii is a disclosure-oriented law and it kind of make sense as why island governments, because you know we are a gift-giving community."

He also mentioned that ethics law prohibits public officials from using public funds or property for political gain. Soliciting or receiving political contribution is not allowed during election years.

In his presentation, he mentioned that a conflict of interest arises when an individual's public responsibilities conflict with his or her personal interests like use of position for personal gain or benefit, the use of government time or equipment for private gain or benefit, participation in obtaining contracts involving family interests.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

PALACIOS

From page 1

been tracking revenue collections but since June, revenue collections did not reflect the forecasted projected revenue collection resulting in an over $3 million shortfall.

"What we passed this fiscal year, with the forecasted projected revenue, we were tracking it every month since June. We were not tracking as projected by $3 million," he said.

However, Palacios notes that he is not too concerned as he believes the CNMI will make up for the shortfall in the final quarter of this fiscal year.

"I'm not too concerned about it. I'm basically mandated by law that whenever revenue dips by $200,000 or goes up by $200,000, I need to advise all branches of government, then put out a proportionate hold on the allotments. If we make it up in August, we will let it go. It's just something I had to do but I really believe we will make up the $3-million shortfall. I believe we will make that up in the fourth quarter. According to revenue and tax, August is usually a high revenue collections month," he said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, the Department of Finance's third quarter report reflected an over $3-million revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2024 which will result in a reduced budget across the board for all government entities.

In a letter to Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Palacios stated that due to Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita's third quarter report (which indicated a $3.4-million revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year), there will be a budget reduction across the board for the current fiscal year.

Specifically, in her quarterly report to the Legislature last week, Norita said the cumulative revenue forecast for the first three quarters of the year was $124 million, but the actual collection was only $120.5 million.

The third quarter of the fiscal is from April 1 to June 30, 2024, and the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2024.

"Although collections in the remaining months of the fiscal year may offset these shortfalls, it would be prudent to initiate a conservative reduction in the budget authority to mitigate the anticipated fiscal year-end deficit," said Palacios.

In his letter, Palacios said pursuant to 1 CMC Section 7604c(4) (or the Planning and Budgeting Act), he is mandating an immediate proportionate reduction in the allotment authority of all branches, offices, departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth which are subject to appropriations.

"The effect of this reduction will be reflected in the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year," he said.

The Office of Management and Budget has revised the remaining budget allotments from August to September 2024, amounting to $16.6 million.

"The proportionate reduction will result in a total budgetary decrease of over $2.3 million or 2.15%. This cut will offset the third quarter lapses of over $1.2 million as of June 30, 2024, as reported by Finance," he said.

Palacios said this reduced budget allocation will have an impact on government operations and services.

"However, the current financial condition of the CNMI requires that we quickly realign government spending with available resources. To meet this challenge, it is imperative that agencies and activities examine their operations and identify areas where they may be reduced or eliminated altogether, while we maintain the reduced work week at 70 hours," he said.

VOICE

From page 1

Kamosa Transmitting Station.

"The change is a discontinuation of all shortwave radio transmissions at our Saipan and Tinian sites, the first step in closing the station," he said.

According to Martin, on June 26, the USAGM—an independent federal agency that oversees the Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, and other U.S. funded international civilian broadcasters—announced it was closing REKTS, its two shortwave radio transmission sites, on Saipan and Tinian.

Martin explains that the USAGM operates the Saipan and Tinian sites to broadcast multilanguage radio programming from Radio Free Asia and Voice of America into the East Asia region.

"Broadcast operations on the islands go back many decades, with the U.S. government building its first transmitting station on Saipan almost immediately after the U.S. entered World War II in December 1941," he said.

While shortwave radio was an effective and popular way for people in media-deprived countries to access international news and information during WWII and the Cold War, Martin says shortwave use has fallen dramatically almost everywhere since the invention of the internet and the fall of Soviet Union in the 1990s.

"As audiences turn to other media and people increasingly access news and information from digital and other platforms, many international broadcasters that were once active on shortwave have reduced or completely eliminated their shortwave operations altogether," he said.

Further, Martin said shortwave broadcasting is increasingly expensive, especially compared to other platforms that are more popular with global audiences.

"USAGM and other broadcasters have sought to balance maintaining costly legacy shortwave operations with investing in other platforms that reach much larger audiences," he said.

For REKTS, Martin said the challenge worsened when Category 5 Super Typhoon Yutu ravaged the CNMI in October 2018 and the station's transmission infrastructure was destroyed.

"USAGM sought to restore the station's transmission capabilities, but budgetary constraints limited efforts to restore its full functionality," he said.

Ultimately, Martin says USAGM is not abandoning shortwave, but it is reducing broadcasts in places with no discernible shortwave audience and consolidating its global transmission network. The REKTS closure is a consequence of this consolidation effort.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP24-DOF/NMIRF-42400135

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 04, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"SINGLE AUDIT (FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE SERVICES) FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, 2022, 2023"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12386, ASCENSION DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ASUNCION S. AGULTO
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR
PROCUREMENT SERVICES

Sanitary inspections of food establishments for July 2024

MARK RABAGO

JTM Snack Bar in Garapan got a food safety rating of Grade A in July 2024 from the Environmental Health Disease Prevention.

During the month of July 2024, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health Disease Prevention conducted sanitary inspections on retail, eating, and drinking establishments.

EHDP is providing names of establishments by inspection grade and names of establishments which were ordered to close for serious violations of health and sanitation standards. For these establishments, EHDP providse the suspension date and the date they were certified to resume operations.

Classifications for food safety rating for an establishment receiving a score of:

- 0-10 demerits Grade A
- 11-20 demerits Grade B
- 21-30 demerits Grade C
- less than 30 closure/suspension

Saipan

Grade A

- J & MJ Enterprises, Susupe
- New LN Market, Chalan Kanoa
- Café Meraki, Garapan
- Hafa Adai Roasting Company, LLC, Garapan
- Sunny Side Kitchen, Garapan
- JTM Snack Bar & BBQ, Garapan
- Great Harvest Bread Co., Chalan Kanoa
- Inas Kitchen, Sadog Tasi
- Poki Yaki Saipan Blenders, Garapan
- Pacific Islands Club Saipan, (all nine outlets), San Antonio
- Traveler By Foody's, San Antonio
- Lily Market, Chalan Kanoa
- Ben-Ki, Dandan
- Spicy Thai Noodle Place, Puerto Rico
- Common Ground, Puerto Rico
- Flower Tea House, Garapan
- 618 Bar Karaoke, Garapan
- M-II Enterprises, Koblerville
- Savemore Market (retail), San Antonio
- Musubiya, Chalan Kanoa
- Gold's Gym Saipan, Chinatown
- Gold Ribbon Bakeshop & Restaurant, Chalan Piao
- Seaside Mart, Garapan
- New Sara Market, Capitol Hill
- Aqua Water, San Antonio
- Western Sales Trading Co., Susupe
- Blue Haus, Garapan
- Agape Christian School, (cafeteria), Gualo Rai
- J.C Marketing, Inc., Gualo Rai
- Cha Café & Bistro II, Garapan
- R&J Wine, Liquor & Tobacco, Garapan
- ER Wholesale, Susupe
- Chelu Shave Ice, Chalan Kanoa
- SafeHouse, Garapan
- T Bar, Garapan
- Saipan Fresh Market, Garapan
- New Kagman Market, Kagman
- Herman's Modern Bakery, Garapan
- Luen Fung Wholesale, Gualo Rai
- Saipan World Resort Hotel, (all nine outlets), Susupe
- Loco & Taco Smoke Dining Bar, Garapan
- Hana Trading Wholesale, Lower Base
- Hafa Adai Saipan Gift Shop, Garapan
- Paris Croissant Bakery, Garapan
- J.C Tenorio Latte Café, Susupe
- Mei Mei Market, San Vicente
- Herman's Modern Bakery, DanDan
- JTAF Manufacture, As Lito
- Capitol Hill Market, Capitol Hill
- Coco Restaurant, Garapan
- New Kagman Market, Kagman
- Happy Market, As Lito
- Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Garapan
- Aiko's Hafa Adai Deli, Garapan
- Matzip Café & Restaurant, Garapan
- Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe

Grade B

- Winners Restaurant, San Antonio
- Susan's Catering, As Lito
- Savemore Market (butcher and packing facility), San Antonio
- New Shin Sen Restaurant, Garapan
- Crystal Ice & Water, San Antonio

Grade C

- New Chang Ming (butcher and packing facility), Garapan

Tinian

Grade A

- Ma's Manggi Catering, San Jose

Grace B

- Khan's Pizza House, San Jose

Grade C

- 3H's Catering, San Jose

For more information, contact the EHDP office at (670) 236-2022/27/28, or email the administrator of EHDP, John Tagabuel, at john.tagabuel@chcc.health.

For more information about CHCC programs, follow EHDP on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out its website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950. ***(PR)***

Search on for Gandang Pinay 2025

The Bayani Association, a non-profit organization, is once again, hosting the search for the "Gandang Pinay" or Filipina beauty pageant on March 1, 2025, at Saipan World Resort.

This pageant is open for young women of Filipino descent aged 16-19. Bayani Association president Yolanda De Ramos mentioned that they currently have seven official candidates registered and are looking for more candidates.

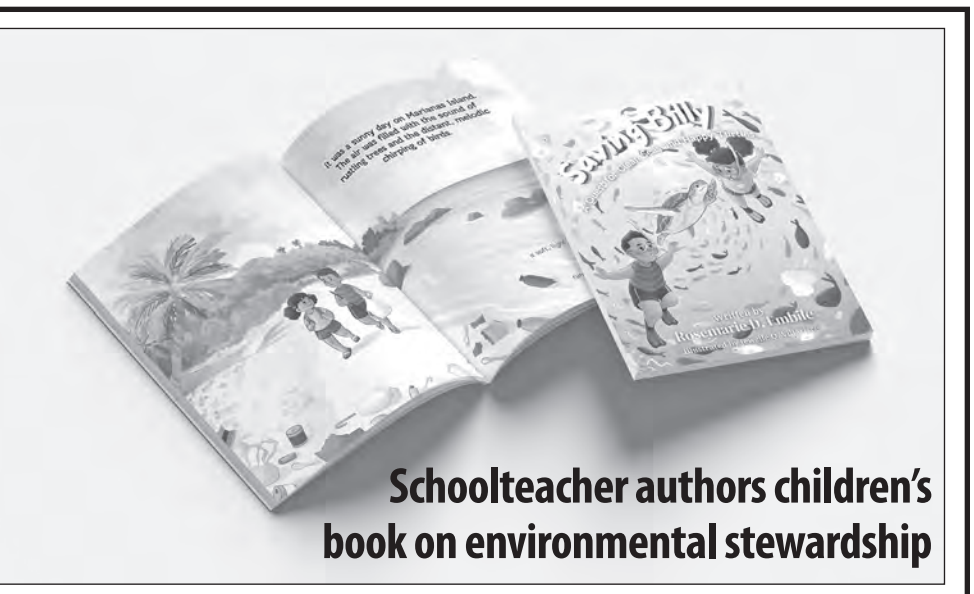
Participants will compete in four categories: Filipiniana costume, talent, evening gown, and the question-and-answer portion.

The event will feature exciting production numbers directed by event director and choreographer Ernie Molina. Many activities like the booth camp training will allow the candidates to learn about make-up tutorials, personality development, public speaking, fashion and styling, and events exposure. They will also be taught about environmental awareness and the love of Mother Earth like the importance of beach cleanups and tree planting. Molina expressed that the pageant aims to help improve the candidates' personality and self-confidence.

Winners will receive cash prizes, crowns, sash, bouquets, gift certificates, and certificates of participation from the Bayani Association. This is a fundraising event, and the proceeds will support the organization's future community projects. The beneficiaries will be announced soon since the negotiations are still ongoing.

They are seeking generous sponsors to be part of this significant event. All sponsors will be ads on Facebook, local radio stations, local tabloids, flyers, and numerous press opportunities, and with the sponsor's support, they can continue to provide those projects that are beneficial to the community

Registration forms are available and the deadline for the submission of entries is on Sept. 30, 2024. For additional details and inquiries, you can call any of the following Bayani Association officers: President Yolly De Ramos at (670) 484-7836, secretary Leony Mendoza at (670) 287-7563, treasurer Mildred Pabilando at (670) 785-0560, PIO Edmin Elayda at (670) 989-0375, past president Annamae Adaza at (670) 285-4388, or event director Ernie Molina at (670) 789-8212. ***(PR)***



Schoolteacher authors children's book on environmental stewardship

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The mockup cover and back cover of Rosemarie D. Embile's new children's book "Saving Billy: A Quest for Clean Seas and Happy Turtles."

Rosemarie D. Embile, an educator with over a decade of teaching experience who loves writing, is excited to announce the release of her debut children's book, "Saving Billy: A Quest for Clean Seas and Happy Turtles."

Drawing from her extensive teaching career and experiences as a teacher on Saipan, Embile has crafted a story that is not just informative but also engaging for young readers. Her book, inspired by the beauty of the island and the curiosity of her students, is a powerful tool for environmental education and a captivating read for children who are eager to understand and preserve the oceans and islands.

The title "Saving Billy" was named after the hawksbill sea turtle, an endangered species in CNMI that plays a crucial role in maintaining the health of coral reefs. The story follows the adventures of Kai and Maya as they discover the importance of working together to protect their island and its sea animals from pollution. Through their journey, children are introduced to caring for the environment, particularly the oceans and islands vital to our planet's health. The book includes "Reflect and Respond" exercises, a "Classroom 101" on recycling, Trivia on oceans, islands, and sea turtles, and most importantly, "Practical Ways for Children to Help Preserve the Ocean" by empowering them to make a difference.

"Teaching children about the environment and conservation is more important now than ever," said Embile. "With 'Saving Billy,' I hope to inspire young minds to protect our beautiful oceans and islands. If we can teach kids to care about these issues early on, we can help shape a future where sustainability is second nature."

"Saving Billy: A Quest for Clean Seas and Happy Turtles" is now available on Amazon Kindle: https://www.amazon.com/Saving-Billy-Quest-Clean-Turtles.

Embile holds a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education and has over a decade of experience as a public school teacher in the Philippines. After her marriage, she continued teaching at Northern Marianas International School on Saipan. Apart from teaching, she loves writing and has authored her first children's book, "Saving Billy: A Quest for Clean Seas and Happy Turtles," which emphasizes the importance of caring for oceans and islands. She believes teaching children about caring for the island early on can help them develop sustainable habits and a sense of environmental responsibility.

For more information, contact Embile at (670) 285-0857 or email rosemarie@nmissaipan.com. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Making a family-friendly city—New York and other big cities must find ways to hold on to young families

Of all the trends reshaping cities in the post-pandemic era, this may be the most worrying: In large numbers, families of young children are fleeing urban centers. Answering their concerns so that New York and other metropolises remain places where millions of kids grow up is urgent, and essential.

The trend, identified by Conor O'Brien of the Economic Innovation Group and spotlighted this week by Derek Thompson in The Atlantic, is especially stark here in New York City—where as of July 2023, the population of kids under 5 was 18.3% lower than in April 2020. Manhattan saw a 20.5% decline; Queens, 19.5%; Brooklyn, 18.7%. San Francisco, Los Angeles and Chicago all saw declines of about 15%.

What's going on? Clearly, the COVID pandemic and the work-from-home arrangements that followed jarred families loose from dense city centers. If moms and dads no longer had to live within an easy daily commute of workplaces, they were free to relocate where they could get more space and less hassle for less money.

The number of people leaving big cities post-pandemic is twice its pre-pandemic rate, and showing no signs yet of slowing. (It doesn't help that birth rates are dropping faster in big cities than in suburbs and rural areas.)

Beneath it all is the fact that housing costs in cities are profoundly out of whack, especially for those who need two, three or (gasp) even four-bedroom residences. A family can live without a yard for kids to run around in, especially if there are great parks and playgrounds and libraries and other family-friendly assets. It cannot live without beds for the kids to sleep in.

Declining number of young kids in urban centers can have a reinforcing effect. As Thompson writes: "As young children become scarce in big cities, people in their 20s and 30s who are thinking about having children will have fewer opportunities to see firsthand how fulfilling parenthood can be. What they're left with instead are media representations, which tend to be inflected by the negativity bias of the news."

So what's the answer? It starts with building housing so there are more affordable places for families to live. Americans tell the Census Bureau that housing is the dominant reason they move. Cities might never be cheaper than suburbs, but they ought not be places where families feel like they're backsliding economically almost every day.

Solving the problem also demands more attention from the school system and other pieces of the child-care ecosystem—which must think hard not only about equity, which is essential, but about competing with other systems to add real value that attracts and keeps kids and parents. Universal Pre-K and 3K are wonderful things, but they're not powerful enough magnets to counterbalance painfully expensive day care, and schools that too often do just an OK job educating young people.

The decline in families with young kids is an urgent problem that demands an all-hands-on-deck solution from government, working with the private sector. How about it, Mayor Eric Adams?

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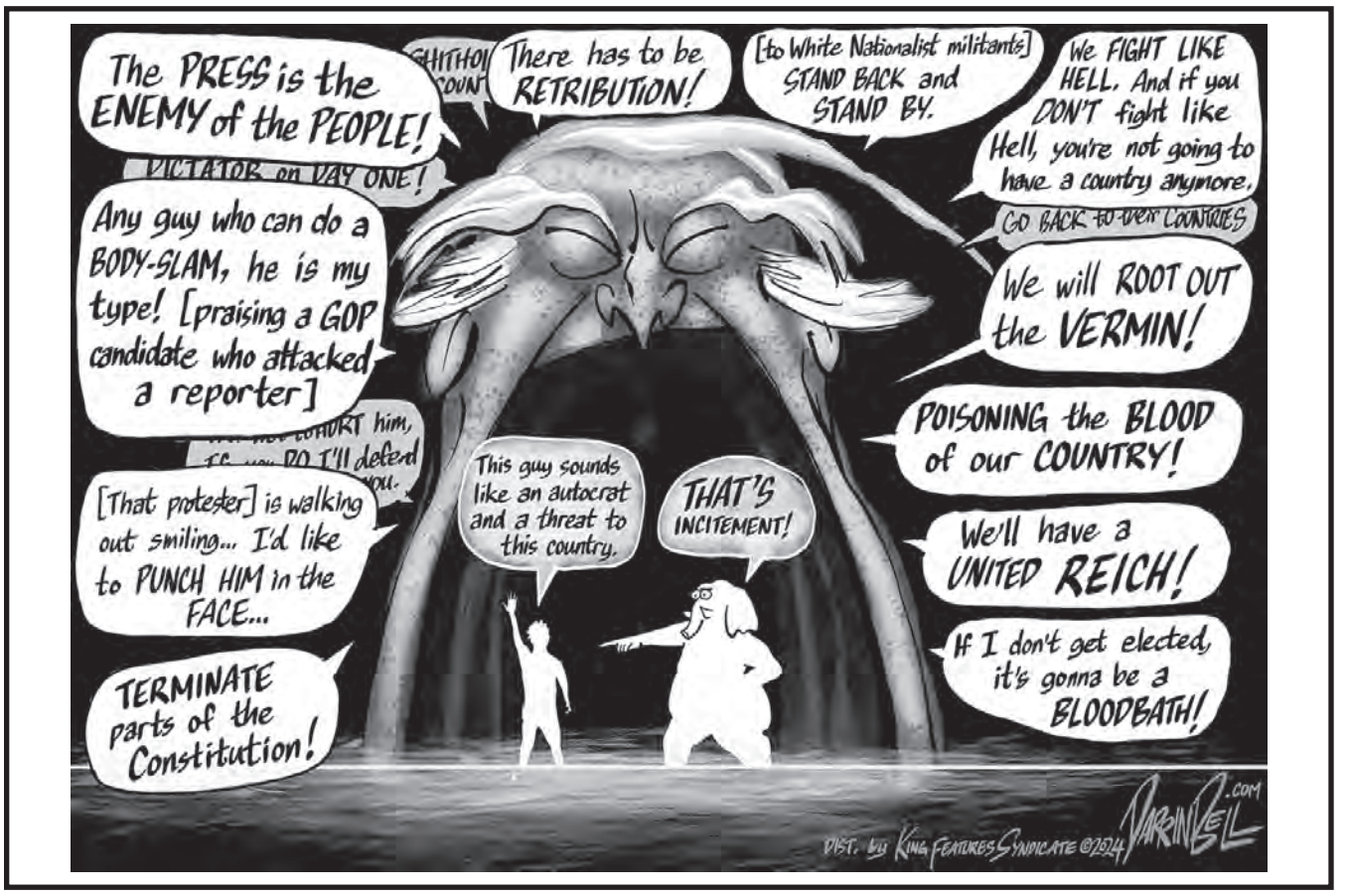
The PRESS is the ENEMY of the PEOPLE!
There has to be RETRIBUTION!
[to White Nationalist militants] STAND BACK and STAND BY.
We FIGHT LIKE HELL. And if you DON'T fight like Hell, you're not going to have a country anymore.
GO BACK TO their COUNTRIES
We will ROOT OUT the VERMIN!
Any guy who can do a BODY-SLAM, he is my type! [praising a GOP candidate who attacked a reporter]
POISONING the BLOOD of our COUNTRY!
[That protester] is walking out smiling... I'd like to PUNCH HIM in the FACE...
This guy sounds like an autocrat and a threat to this country.
THAT'S INCITEMENT!
We'll have a UNITED REICH!
If I don't get elected, it's gonna be a BLOODBATH!
TERMINATE parts of the Constitution!
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89th anniversary of Social Security

Today, Aug. 14, 2024 marks the 89th anniversary of the Social Security Act of 1935. The law applies in the CNMI and affects most of us.

By GREGORY BAKA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregory Baka is a staff attorney of Marianas Office Micronesian Legal Services Corp.

THE LAW'S DESIGN

Social Security initially focused on what is now known as the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program, administered by the Social Security Administration. Over the years the Social Security Act has been expanded to include such provisions as benefits for the spouse and minor children of a retired worker (1939), a cost of living adjustment (COLA) at irregular intervals (1950), a disability program (1954), early retirement at age 62 with reduced benefits (1961), Medicare health care benefits (1965), the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program (1972), COLA on an annual basis (1975 & 1977), taxation of some Social Security benefits (1983), coverage of new federal employees (1983), full retirement age gradually increased from 65 years to—for those born in 1962 or later—67 years (1983), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (1997), State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) for low income citizens (1997), and the No Social Security Benefits for Prisoners Act (2009).

WHO PAYS?

Social Security OASDI is funded primarily through payroll taxes. For employees, the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax rate is 6.2%, withheld from wage and salary earnings, and 6.2% matched by the employer. The maximum earnings subject to FICA taxation varies annually. In 2024, the FICA taxable earnings ceiling is $168,600. Wage and salary earnings above this amount are not taxed. Self-employed individuals are subject to Self Employed Contributions Act (SECA) taxes, which are the same as the FICA employee and employer taxes combined. There is also a Medicare tax of 1.45% for most employees, matched by the employer, with an additional 0.9% for those earning over $200,000 annually. Unlike FICA or SECA taxes, there is no maximum earning level for Medicare tax.

IN THE CNMI

Since Oct. 1, 2012, pursuant to a memorandum signed by SSA and the late governor Eloy S. Inos, all CNMI government employees have been participating in Social Security contributions through FICA tax withholding. So, in the future, Social Security will become increasingly important to CNMI residents in their retirement years.

THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Unfortunately, in May 2024 the Social Security Trustees have projected that the combined OASDI trust fund will be depleted in 2035. This is due to demographic changes, as the "baby boomers" have moved or are moving out of the work force and into retirement, replaced by a smaller working population. Thus, we only have a few years to make changes that will save Social Security.

Various proposals have been made to extend the OASDI trust fund depletion date, summarized in Wikipedia:

- Lift the payroll tax ceiling. It is adjusted for inflation, currently $168,600. Taxing higher incomes would bring in more money.
- Increase Social Security taxes. If workers and employers each paid 8.0% FICA tax (up from today's 6.2%), it would provide solvency through 2090. Self-employed persons would pay 16.00% SECA tax on earnings (up from today's 12.4%) under this proposal.
- Raise the retirement age(s). Raising the normal retirement age by two months per year until it reaches 69 in 2034 would reduce payouts and improve solvency.
- Means-test benefits. A phase out of Social Security benefits for those who already have income over $48,000/year ($4,000/month) would eliminate over 20% of the funding gap. This is not very popular, with only 31% of surveyed households favoring it.
- Change the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Several proposals have been discussed. Effects of COLA reductions would be cumulative over time and would affect some groups more than others. Poverty rates would increase.
- Reduce benefits for new retirees. If Social Security benefits were reduced by 3% to 5% for new retirees, about 18% to 30% percent of the funding gap would be eliminated.
- Average in more working years. Social Security benefits are now based on an average of a worker's 35 highest paid annual salaries with zeros averaged in if there are fewer than 35 years of covered wages. The averaging period could be increased to 38 or 40 years, which could potentially reduce the deficit by 10% to 20%, respectively.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_Security_(United_States)#Ways_to_eliminate_the_projected_shortfall

ANALYSIS OF PROPOSALS

All but the first two of these proposals would hurt beneficia-

See 89TH on Page 7

Have the 2024 Olympics really changed the game for women in sports?

By AVNI SHAH
Los Angeles Times

Avni Shah is a writer and mother of two boys. Her work has appeared in InStyle, Salon, Huffington Post and more.

This year, quotas requiring equal numbers of female and male athletes delivered a Summer Games closer to gender parity than any other Olympics in history.

The International Olympic Committee's emphasis on balancing its medal opportunities and participant list by gender creates an undeniable win for female athletes. They weren't even allowed to participate in the first Olympics in 1896 and represented just 2.2% of the total athletes in 1900, when they were finally "included"—in tennis, golf and a few other "ladylike" sports. This year's games are on track to have close to 50% female competitors, which means more women have participated than ever before.

Women have infused social media feeds with compelling stories daily—not just the dominance of gymnast Simone Biles or swimmer Katie Ledecky, but also Lee Kiefer's gold medal in fencing, Ilona Maher putting "beast mode" in the zeitgeist via women's rugby, and Gabby Thomas winning her first gold medal on the international stage. Of course, other female athletes have faced backlash, as seen with boxers Imane Khelif and Lin Yu-ting after the International Boxing Assn. alleged they had failed unspecified gender eligibility tests. The IOC stood by the athletes, who went on to demonstrate hard work and discipline—and hopefully to change perceptions of what female athletes can accomplish.

The diversity of options and angles to cover female greats available to the media this year continues a trend. For the first time, the women's NCAA championship game drew more viewers than the men's, peaking at 24 million. Stars like Caitlin Clark, who graduated from Iowa this year and plays for the WNBA, created a wave that has crested at the Olympics, bringing in rabid new fans. Biles is a juggernaut, with an audience including Snoop Dogg watching her every rotation in awe. These athletes don't just have presence—they have star power.

The icons and numbers matter. When female athletes see successful peers, they gain room to focus on competing and realizing their potential instead of on breaking the mold. The problem is, more broadly in sports, many numbers still look abysmal for women. Male sports still dominate in terms of sponsorships, merchandise and, perhaps most importantly, pay. Clark's rookie salary—$338,056 over the next four years—is a tiny fraction of the $55 million four-year contract signed by Victor Wembanyama, last year's top NBA draft pick.

Meanwhile, not all geographic areas and sports are built the same. Even at these "gender equal" Paris Olympics, six countries had no women competing at all, while Mali, Botswana, El Salvador, Qatar and other countries had fewer than 15% female participants. Swimming, soccer, hockey and, perhaps surprisingly, equestrian are among the events with more men competing than women.

And that's just the situation for the athletes. There are also major disparities among the individuals who train, support and coach them. In Tokyo in 2020, only 13% of coaches were women, the IOC reported. This year, that number is expected to be less than 23%.

I know the loneliness of being a female coach firsthand. Recently, when I attended a baseball coaching clinic at Dodger Stadium as part of a community development program, I was one of a handful of women among a hundred or so coaches. In my sub-group, I was the only female (and Indian American) participant. Not a single speaker or coach of the six individuals who led the clinic were female. In that context, I felt like I had to prove something spectacular about my ability and acumen—a somewhat ridiculous and self-imposed standard. It also made me nervous to ask some basic-level coaching questions (what is a classic batting stance and why, again, do we teach kids fastballs and not curveballs?), which I worried would confirm assumptions about my qualifications to lead.

Women coaches can provide female athletes with a crucial understanding of their needs and potential, and can offer fresh perspective to athletes of all kinds. The IOC appeared to recognize that when in 2021, responding to dismal female coaching numbers, it created a training program. Since its launch, the program has trained more than 100 women, though only 10 of them are coaching in Paris. In addition, the IOC is working to achieve parity for female referees and judges.

Such programs should be replicated at local levels and ignited in youth sports. To lightly paraphrase a Kevin Costner scene in "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, she will come." We can conjure what we wish by building the infrastructure to support it. Right now in Paris, we're seeing a top-down mandate helping female athletes get their well-deserved moment in the spotlight. But we need to build the "field" from the bottom up as well, investing at the local level in the same ideals we demand of the biggest athletic stage we can imagine.

Is Harris or Trump fighting for workers? The union crowd in Detroit says it all

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

I grew up in a union family in Detroit. Health insurance, food on the table, roof over our heads—as kids we took these for granted, but history tells us they were not easily earned, and work stoppages are perennial reminders that they are also hard to keep. As children we were unaware of the constant tension between labor and capital. All we knew was sometimes we ate at Red Lobster on Sundays, and sometimes we were lucky if we ate at all.

That is what greeted Vice President Kamala Harris and Gov. Tim Walz when they landed at the Detroit airport on Wednesday for a rally with the United Auto Workers: the hopes and struggles of the Midwest's working class. The campaign believes there are an estimated 2.7 million union members in the battleground states.

Harris and Walz will be here often.

"Michigan just flipped back to middle-class workers," said Jonathan Smith, a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers union, at the event. "We're not going back."

In 2013, the Republican governor, Rick Snyder, made Michigan a "right to work" state, allowing people to work in union-represented roles without paying into the union. He promised this would bring more jobs, but the move faced huge protests—and over the next decade, we learned who was right.

Michigan workers saw a decline in their way of life, but not the rise in jobs that was promised. In 2023, the Democrat governor, Gretchen Whitmer, corrected her predecessor's error. She, like many of the speakers who took the stage at the Detroit rally, made sure to thank union leaders for organizing the huge crowd. Led by members of the United Auto Workers, who wore red, the thousands corralled in and around an airport hangar included a number of brightly colored union T-shirts.

With fewer than 90 days to go before the election, what better way for Harris to kick off the first full day with her new running mate than with voters she knows are used to fighting? And she isn't new to this bloc or their causes.

In 2018, as a senator, Harris showed her support for the striking University of California employees by withdrawing as Berkeley's commencement speaker. In 2019 she joined a UAW picket line in Nevada. The Biden administration transition team included Teresa Romero from the United Farm Workers and Lonnie Stephenson from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Harris is not just comfortable in this setting. The faces in the crowd shape her policy proposals and inform her messaging. Her selection of Walz reiterates her commitment to labor and the working class.

As for her opponent, former President Donald Trump purports to be pro-labor, but his businesses have left a trail of aggrieved and unpaid workers over the decades, including union members. We're talking carpenters, electricians, plumbers. In fact, his enterprises racked up more than 20 violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act for not paying overtime or minimum wage. As president, he flooded the National Labor Relations Board with known union-busters. In 2004, he crossed a picket line to appear on "The Apprentice." His current campaign chose not to hire union stagehands … and ended up with a poorly hung sign that appeared to be endorsing Harris for president.

Last fall Trump held a rally in Michigan at a nonunion plant while the UAW was fighting for a living wage. At that event Trump bashed the Biden administration for pushing automakers toward electric cars, claiming the shift would decimate the Detroit economy. Then Elon Musk endorsed him. Now Trump says he has no choice but to like electric cars because of it. So much for EVs destroying the city, right?

When union families in the Great Lakes region were fighting to put food on the table, they got support from Biden and Harris. Trump just came looking for votes.

"I was satisfied with Biden at the top of the ticket, but with Kamala Harris there is a real excitement," Detroit native Shana Norfolk told me on Wednesday. "She understands what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck because she's been there with us. I believe she is going to fight for civil rights, women's rights, worker rights, equity and inclusion … because she gets it."

That's how Harris has been able to build so much momentum organically. She is relatable to many different kinds of Americans because she speaks to values needed for the coalition. And it starts with compassion.

At one point, Walmart workers who relied on public assistance cost taxpayers more than $6 billion a year. At the same time, the company and its shareholders enjoyed nearly $8 billion in tax breaks and subsidies. Now even though Walmart CEO Doug McMillon said after the Jan. 6 attack that Trump's big lie was to blame for the division in the country, Walmart continues to donate to Republicans who were election deniers. Presumably for the tax breaks.

Earlier this year the NLRB accused Walmart of illegal tactics to prevent employees from unionizing in Eureka, Calif. Clearly the tax breaks are not enough. Project 2025, the playbook conservatives want to employ on Day 1 in a possible second Trump term, includes initiatives to erode organized labor.

Health insurance, a roof over their children's heads, food on the table—under Trump, all the staples of the middle class would be left to the whims of the 1%. No wonder there was such a passionate crowd filling the hangar at the Detroit airport for Harris and Walz: The 99% hope that this new Democratic presidential ticket can stop that from happening.

89TH

From page 6

ries of SSA Retirement and Survivors Insurance (RSI). While means-testing benefits might not hurt the poorest of the poor, it could be devastating to middle income retirees, especially those who have made FICA contributions for decades in expectation of maintaining their standard of living.

Raising the retirement age hurts the poor and those in physically demanding jobs, who are least likely to be able to continue working until 69. Already, a majority of RSI annuitants apply for early retirement at age 62. Either they cannot physically work anymore, or cannot afford to live on what they are earning. Raising the retirement age would essentially be balancing the OASDI budget on the lives of the poor.

COLA amounts are intended to prevent RSI retirees from being driven into poverty by inflation, while the pensions remain stagnant. COLA reductions would also be extending the OASDI program on the lives of the poor.

Likewise, reducing benefits for new retirees ends up hurting the poor of tomorrow. Finally, calculating benefits on the highest 38 or 40 years, rather than the current 35 years, is just another way of cutting benefits for the poor, that is, those with unstable employment histories or who have had physically demanding jobs.

In summary, the SSA OASDI program, including RSI, is becoming increasingly important in the CNMI as the Northern Mariana Islands Settlement Fund (NMISF) annuitants gradually pass away.

WHAT WE CAN DO

We should pay attention to potential solutions that have the potential to extend the life of the program.

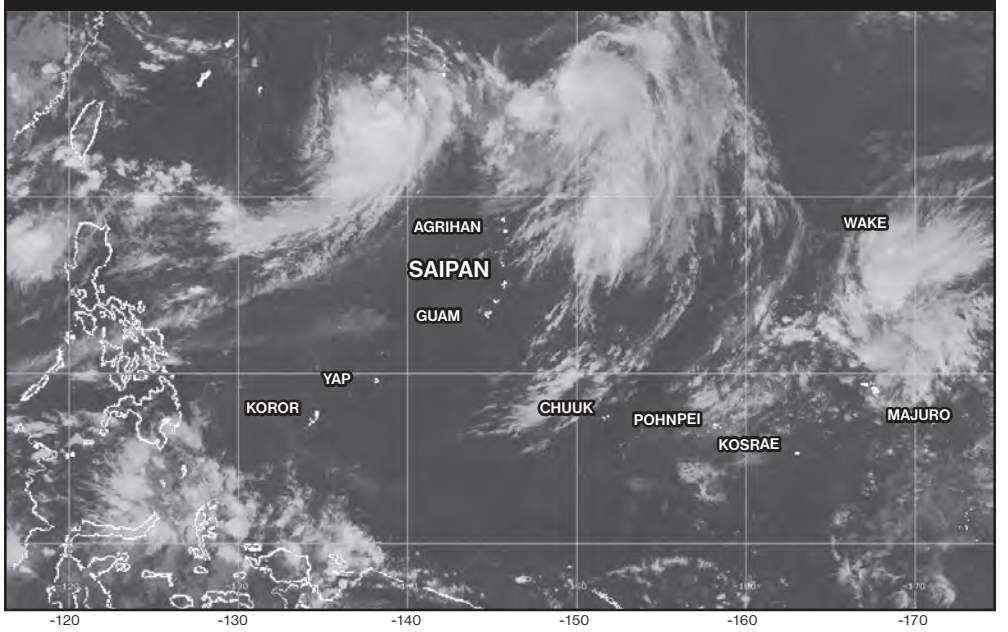
Let us remain mindful that ignoring a problem does not make it go away.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
86° 81°	86° 81°	86° 79°	86° 79°	86° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:53 AM TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only minor edits to the previous forecast made. Partly cloudy skies and spotty showers expected today. Did speed up the arrival of a surface trough and the potential for scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for late tonight, based off the latest satellite and model trends, and continuing through Wednesday night. For late week into the weekend, expect a chance of showers and slight chance for thunderstorms as a series of surface troughs pass through the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°
Palau	Fair	83° / 77°
Yap	Fair	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Thursday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:14 AM	1:43 PM
Thursday	-	1:03 AM	2:41 PM
Friday	-	1:59 AM	3:41 PM
Saturday	-	3:00 AM	4:39 PM
Sunday	-	4:04 AM	5:33 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 46°
Beijing	Fair	87° / 73°
Hong Kong	Fair	89° / 80°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
New York	Clear	81° / 63°
Osaka	Showers	88° / 79°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 56°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	96° / 80°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	95° / 83°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	84° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:00 AM	High Tide	1.77
8:55 AM	Low Tide	0.30
4:51 PM	High Tide	1.63
9:01 PM	Low Tide	1.45

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Team Koka's Scoops & School Supplies a success

TINIAN—Team Koka had a sweet start for the 2024-2025 school year following the success of its annual Scoops & School Supplies event held last Friday, Aug. 9, at the Housing Basketball Court.

"We had an incredible time connecting with our community and kicking off the new school year! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to pass out ice cream to over 45 families and serve about 100 students with supplies and backpacks," said Team Koka in a press release.

It then made a special shoutout to everyone who donated and made this event possible, namely: Alana Isa Abayare, Kalyana Korok, Maika and Masen Hofschneider, Martina Diaz, Jasmine Alik, Bokke Heine, Kally Kanag, Gizelle and Dustin Sablan, Saad-Hofschneider family, Marynita Cepeda and Darius Pettis, Nicole Deleon Guerrero, Trinisha Paxton, Miles, Pierce, and Rex, Isa San Nicolas King, E.J., Alvie, and Everest, Raena, Juan, and Avery Cabrera, Lesley Mahilum, Sen. Karl San Nicolas Nabors (R-Tinian), Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian). Mayor Edwin K. Aldan, Tinian Fuel Services, Tracy Sanchez, Jocelyn, Sandy, Kobe, and Aiden King , Kalia Diaz Pascua, Kailana Diaz King, and Maria and Mike Aguon.

"If you didn't receive supplies, we will be reaching out to you for a waitlist. And don't forget to register for our Team Koka Learning Center after-school program while slots are still available!" added Team Koka.

If you captured any great moments, Team Koka requests that you tag them @ teamkoka on Facebook and Instagram. "We'd love to see and share them! Thank you again for your support. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!" ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Team Koka passed out ice cream to over 45 families and served about 100 students with supplies and backpacks during its annual Scoops & School Supplies event held last Friday, Aug. 9, at the Housing Basketball Court.

Business

GRMC bestowed with AHA Gold Plus award

GRMC
Staff of Guam Regional Medial City's cardiology department make a heart sign.

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City is proudly recognized by the American Heart Association with the Get With The Guidelines Heart Failure Gold Plus Award with Target: HF and Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.

This recognition highlights the hospital's commitment to providing high-quality care and improving the lives of patients with heart failure and type 2 diabetes.

The Get With The Guidelines program is designed to help healthcare providers implement the latest evidence-based practices in managing heart failure. Achieving the Gold Plus Award signifies that GRMC has consistently met or exceeded performance benchmarks in treating heart failure patients, including the timely initiation of therapies and patient education.

This initiative emphasizes the importance of integrated care for patients with multiple chronic conditions, ensuring they receive comprehensive treatment and management.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from the American Heart Association," said GRMC CEO, Dr. Alexander "Beau" Wielaard. "This award reflects the hard work and dedication of our medical staff, nurses, and care teams who strive to provide the best possible outcomes for our patients. We are committed to continuous improvement and ensuring our patients receive the highest standard of care."

This achievement not only underscores GRMC's dedication to heart health but also reinforces its mission to improve the overall health of the community it serves.

To learn more about GRMC's neurology team, please visit this website: https://www.grmc.gu/cardiology/.

For more information, contact, Krystal Ramos, Marketing Communications and Analytics specialist at krystalmae.ramos@grmc.gu. ***(PR)***

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Nation

Harris cautiously rolls out policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Vice President Kamala Harris is trying to outmaneuver former President Donald Trump and address old vulnerabilities on her policy positions as she starts to fill in how she would govern if elected in November.

Vice presidents rarely have policy portfolios of their own—and almost always set aside any views that differ from those of the Oval Office occupant. Now, after four years of following President Joe Biden's lead, Harris is taking a cautious approach to unveiling a policy vision in her own right.

But her surprise ascendance to the top of the ticket after Biden dropped his reelection bid also means her policy platform is being pulled together just as quickly.

When Harris inherited Biden's political operation in late July, the campaign's website was quietly scrubbed of the six-point "issues" page that framed the race against Trump, from expanding voting protections

» As she aims to outmaneuver Trump and address 2020 liabilities

to restoring nationwide access to abortion. Instead, Harris has peppered her speeches—so far heavy on biography for herself and her running mate—with broad goals like "building up the middle class." She has called for federal laws to provide abortion access and ban assault-style weapons, but has been thin on the details of what specifically they would entail or how she would convince Congress to make progress on some of the most hot-button political issues.

Asked by reporters on Saturday when she would unveil her policy platform, Harris promised more details this week and added, "It'll be focused on the economy and what we need to do to bring down costs and also strengthen the economy overall."

Her team has offered few clues of what it will include. But the first major window into her thinking came this past weekend, with a proposal pulled not from the policy backwaters of the Biden administration or the cutting-room floor of the legislative process but from her rival: Trump.

Harris announced that she, like Trump, wants to end federal taxation of tipped earnings for workers—with the added caveat that she would limit the plan to those in the lower- and middle incomes. The idea has drawn bipartisan support in recent months and is particularly salient in service industry-heavy Nevada.

It's also one of the few new ideas embraced by Trump in his 2024 bid to get back into the White House—a bonus in the view of the Harris camp, which has tried to needle the Republican into making unforced errors.

Conservative gathering provides safe space for Republicans who aren't on board with Trump

ATLANTA (AP)—At the Republican National Convention and multiple rallies since, former President Donald Trump has been greeted as a hero who narrowly escaped assassination and is destined to lead a new American golden age.

At a recent conservative conference in Georgia, there was a different vibe.

There were few, if any, red hats at "The Gathering," the annual confab hosted by influential syndicated radio host Erick Erickson, and no rousing promises to "Make America Great Again." Instead, Erickson's guests, from rank-and-file voters up to Trump's onetime vice president, spent two days critiquing the GOP's path in the Trump era. And when it came to the November election, many of them spent more time handwringing over a Kamala Harris presidency than celebrating the promise of another Trump administration.

The dynamics are particularly problematic for the former president's chances in Georgia, a longtime Republican stronghold that has almost shifted into becoming a genuine two-party state, and a handful of other tossup states. They also serve as a reminder that despite his near-complete takeover of the GOP, Trump still has detractors and skeptics among conservatives whose decisions this fall could help determine whether he returns to the White House.

"I voted for him willingly in 2016, and then I held my nose and did it again in 2020," said Atlanta small business owner Barton McMillan, a four-decade resident of the city who blames Trump for recent Democratic victories in Georgia, which backed Joe Biden for president in 2020 and elected two Democratic U.S. senators.

"This time, I don't know what I'm going to do," McMillan said. "And I'm representative of a lot of the people here."

Indeed, Erickson's assembly featured consternation over federal spending, abortion policy, Trump's proposed tariffs, America's uncertain role in the international order, the former president's penchant for personal attacks, his fixation on the lie that systemic voter fraud was to blame for his 2020 loss and his false contention that his vice president at the time, Mike Pence, had the power to overturn Biden's election.

"I cannot endorse President Trump's continuing assertion that I should have put aside my oath to support the Constitution and act in a way that would have overturned the election," Pence said.

Life & Style

MTV Video Music Awards move back a day

By MARIA SHERMAN
AP Music Writer

» Due to US presidential debate and will air on Sept. 11

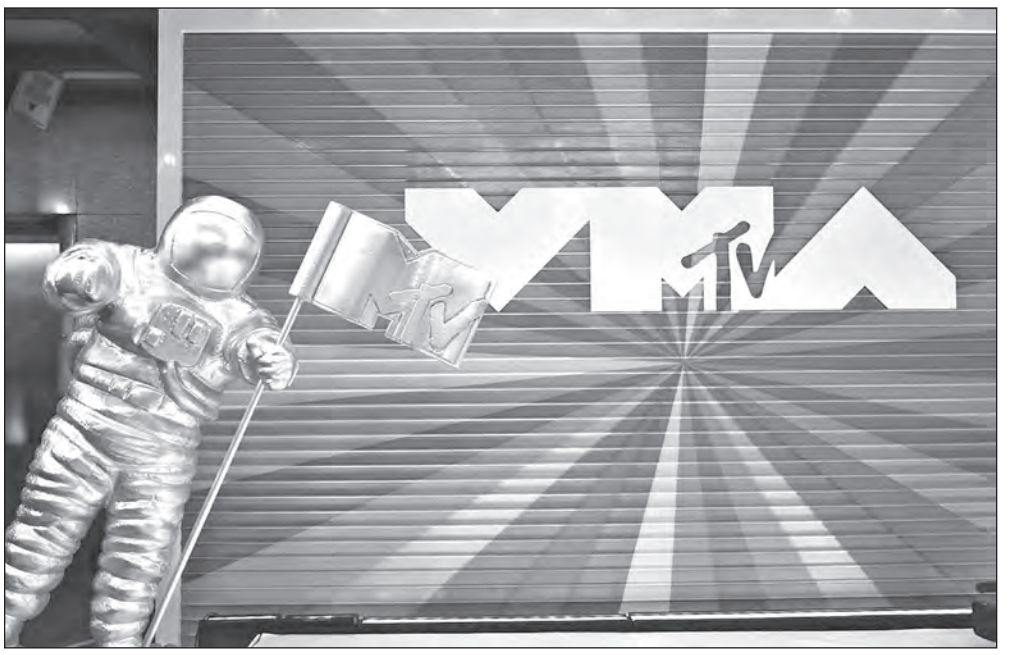
The 2024 MTV Video Music Awards have moved to a new date because of the forthcoming U.S. presidential debate.

The VMAs will now air live on Sept. 11 at 8 p.m. Eastern from the UBS Arena on New York's Long Island, a day later than previously announced.

Last week, ABC News confirmed that the campaigns of both Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump had agreed to participate in a debate on Sept. 10, the previous date of the 2024 VMAs.

On Tuesday, MTV announced the 2024 nominees. Taylor Swift once again tops the VMA noms with 10—eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who is nominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nom for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

Rounding out the artist of the year category nominees are Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter and SZA.



AP

A statue of the MTV Moon Man appears on the red carpet at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York on Aug. 21, 2018.

Swift took home nine VMAs last year, bringing her total to an impressive 23. That places her just behind Beyoncé, who has 28 (two with Destiny's Child) and just ahead of Madonna, who has 20 awards, and Lady Gaga, who has 19.

Grande, Carpenter and Eminem are tied with six nods; Megan Thee Stallion and SZA have five each. Blackpink's LISA, Olivia Rodrigo and Teddy Swims follow with four nominations each.

Fan voting across 15 gender-neutral categories is currently active online and ends Aug. 30.

Voting in the best new artist category will remain active throughout the show.

Performers at the 2024 VMAs include Sabrina Carpenter, Chappell Roan, Glo-Rilla, Rauw Alejandro and Camila Cabello.

Harrison Ford, Angela Bassett, Miley Cyrus and more honored as Disney Legends in emotional ceremony

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Harrison Ford held back tears, Miley Cyrus let them flow and several stars got emotional as they accepted the prestigious Disney Legends honor Sunday.

The company bestowed Legends status on 14 artists it says have had a "significant impact" on Disney's legacy, including director James Cameron, film composer John Williams, Angela Bassett, Jamie Lee Curtis and Kelly Ripa, among several others.

This year's class of Disney Legends was inducted into the company's version of the hall of fame in a ceremony Sunday at The Honda Center in Anaheim, California, as a part of the D23 fan convention. Ryan Seacrest hosted the show, which is now streaming on Disney+.

Ford, who was the first to accept the award, called himself an "assistant storyteller," noting the many contributions of his collaborators to his career.

"I love the life you've given me," he said to the crowd of over 15,000. "I love the people I've had the opportunity to work with. Nobody does anything in this business alone."

Ford was teary as he thanked Disney CEO Bob Iger, who presented him with the award, for his professional guidance and friendship.

The "Indiana Jones" and "Star Wars" actor received the honor more than 20 years after he was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The revered actor is joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe in the upcoming "Captain America: Brave New World."

Cyrus said she wasn't as strong as her fellow honorees who held back their tears as she accepted the award with an emotional speech.

"Legends get scared, too. I'm scared right now, but the difference is we do it anyway. All of you can do that every single day. It's legendary to be afraid and do it anyway," Cyrus said. "There's no such thing as failure when you try."

Country singer Lainey Wilson warmed the crowd up with a rousing performance of "The Best of Both Worlds" from Cyrus' breakout show, "Hannah Montana," and noted her personal admiration for Cyrus, whose popular character she impersonated in her early music gigs.

The "Flowers" singer, who rose to fame after starring as the titular popstar in "Hannah Montana" in 2006, is the youngest Legends recipient. Following her time on the sitcom, Cyrus has had a long-running career in music, winning her first Grammy Award in February.

Bassett, who appeared in "Black Panther" and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," reunited with the film's director, Ryan Coogler, who presented her with the honor. Bassett also stars in ABC's "9-1-1."

"To the fans, you are the magic," Bassett said. "There are not enough words to let you know how much I appreciate you, how much I love you. I stand here today because you bought the tickets, you have watched the television shows, you have cheered me on my best days and lifted me up on the more difficult ones."

Lindsay Lohan and Jodie Foster joined forces to present Curtis with her award. Foster said her "bestie" was "inventive, fearless and full of surprises" before bestowing old-fashioned Mickey Mouse ears upon Curtis.

"Legends aren't born, they're created," Curtis said. "They're created and nurtured and taught and educated and then they make art and then we connect."

Curtis has appeared in her share of projects under The Walt Disney Studios banner, from "Beverly Hills Chihuahua" to "You Again." She is set to reprise her role in the upcoming sequel of the fan-favorite movie "Freaky Friday," opposite Lohan. Curtis and Lohan surprised fans at Friday's D23 presentation and shared a first look at "Freakier Friday."

Ford stepped back out on stage to honor Williams, who created the iconic scores of Ford's "Indiana Jones" and "Star Wars" movies, as well as "Jurassic Park" and "Jaws," among several others. Williams has created the "soundtrack of our lives," Ford said.

Church leader lies through his teeth about infidelity

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Silas," and I have been married for 30 years. He is the deacon and Sunday school teacher at our church. (His brother is the pastor.) Silas had a two-year affair with another woman at work while he continued teaching Sunday school.

I have a hard time with this. I will never trust him again, and I don't trust him in my faith. I resigned my position as church clerk immediately after finding out what he had done. I couldn't continue my position with the mess I was about to go through. I left him.

Six months later, we got back together, mainly for me to take ownership on everything I had worked for in my life. I have never returned to our church because he didn't step down from leadership, and the church didn't force him. Silas also lied and told the entire congregation, from the pulpit, that I had two affairs. How could he do this in front of the congregation of a church I've attended for 30 years? He is still not REAL in his faith or his love for me.

I have no money to start over, as I withdrew all of my 401(k) and paid off everything we owed, including our home. How do I get out now with no funds? During the six months I was gone, he didn't even want to give me $300 a week to live and pay bills. If I leave, I leave with nothing. All I want is to be loved and happy. Please advise.

FEELING UNWORTHY IN LOUISIANA

DEAR FEELING UNWORTHY: Please accept my sympathy for this sorry situation. Contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline and ask for help to escape the financial straitjacket your husband has you in. Its toll-free phone number is 800-799-7233. Many other women have done this and succeeded, and so can you.

■■■

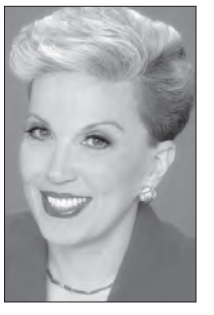
DEAR ABBY: I've been in a relationship for 11 years. We're not married, nor do we live together. We are both 57. It has been kind of rocky over the years. He is controlling at times, then does nice things for me. Lately, he has expressed a desire for us to "just have fun." Problem is, he's been having fun with his 27-year-old son and his son's friends, and he has managed to not include me at all. Then he proceeds to ask me what I want to do.

When I mention a few "date" activities, he's not interested. He finds better things to do with his kid and complains to me that I never have any ideas about anything to do. He only wants sex with me. I want to do the fun things I have suggested to him. He claims he loves me and wants me to be part of his life. I feel I'm only a convenience for him. Help, please!

DISSATISFIED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR DISSATISFIED: If there are things you would like to do, do them with people who are willing. While you're doing that, ask yourself if this is the kind of relationship you want in perpetuity. Whether your boyfriend is bored or having a midlife crisis, I can't opine. But if you feel he values you only for the sex you provide, it may be time to move on.

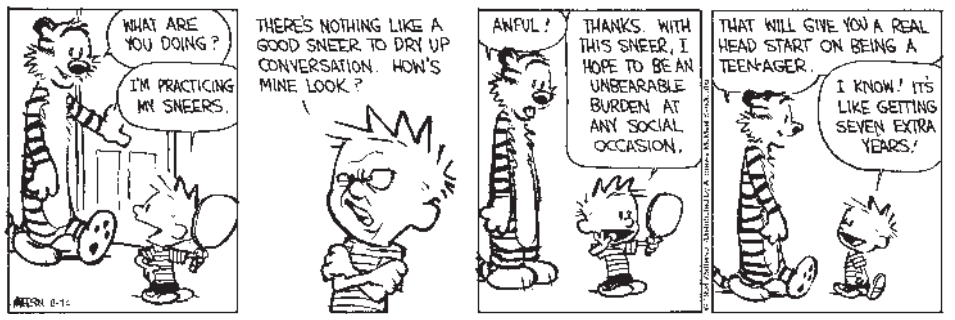
■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

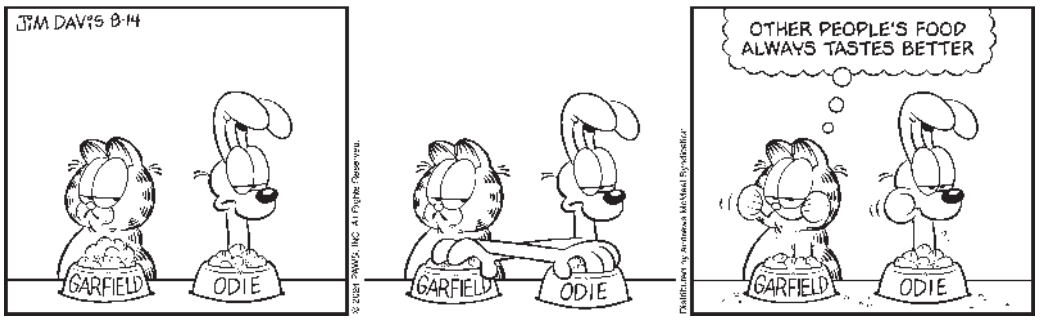
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M PRACTICING MY SNEERS.
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD SNEER TO DRY UP CONVERSATION. HOW'S MINE LOOK?
AWFUL!
THANKS. WITH THIS SNEER, I HOPE TO BE AN UNBEARABLE BURDEN AT ANY SOCIAL OCCASION.
THAT WILL GIVE YOU A REAL HEAD START ON BEING A TEENAGER.
I KNOW! IT'S LIKE GETTING SEVEN EXTRA YEARS!

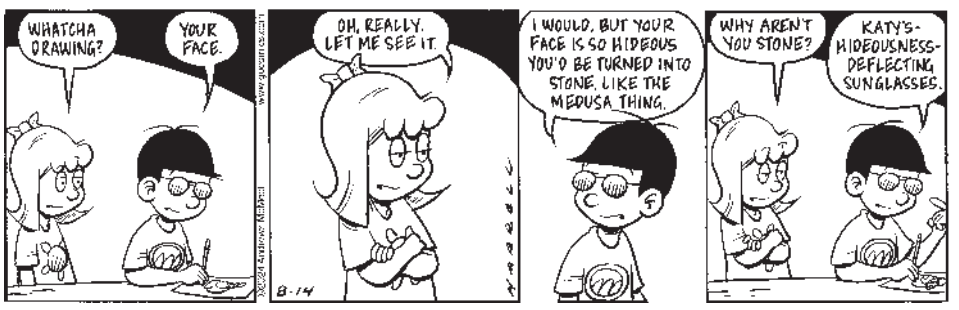
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHATCHA DRAWING?
YOUR FACE.
OH, REALLY. LET ME SEE IT.
I WOULD, BUT YOUR FACE IS SO HIDEOUS YOU'D BE TURNED INTO STONE, LIKE THE MEDUSA THING.
WHY AREN'T YOU STONE?
KATY'S-HIDEOUSNESS-DEFLECTING SUNGLASSES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S FROM THE IRS. WE HAVE A TAX REFUND OF 60 CENTS.
BUT IT SAYS SINCE THEY HAD TO USE A 73-CENT STAMP TO MAIL THIS LETTER, WE OWE THEM 13 CENTS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 That fellow
4 Monumental
8 Unspoken feeling
12 GI entertainers
13 Japanese soup
14 Hibernia
15 Day- — paint
16 Katharine Ross role of 1969
18 Nymph pursuer
20 Twitch
21 Pet food brand
24 Metric measures
28 Wherever
32 Sea predator
33 Middling grade
34 Pub projectiles
36 "Nasty!"
37 Tide type
39 Lose
41 Goof
43 British pianist Hess
44 Spy org.
46 "Holy cow!"
50 "Monopoly" purchase
55 Billboards
56 Actress Falco
57 Historic times
58 Body art, for short
59 Treaty
60 Winnow
61 Ambulance initials

DOWN
1 Embraces
2 Actress Fisher
3 Not worth debating
4 Green gem
5 Deep hole
6 Follower (Suff.)
7 Nail polish layer
8 Zipper substitute
9 Lyricist Gershwin
10 Pen name
11 Compass dir.
17 Glutton
19 Shrill bark
22 Polite address
23 Curtain fabric
25 "Tosca" solo
26 Nero's 1,300
27 Rice wine
28 Skin breakout
29 — -do-well
30 Wine label datum
31 Online craft shop
35 Most agile
38 Pita feature
40 Chou En- —
42 Tear
45 Pub orders
47 Designer Spade
48 Dutch export
49 Swift jets
50 Zing
51 Oklahoma city
52 Rock's Ocasek
53 Shapiro of NPR
54 Half- — (coffee mix)

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	T	O	M	■	A	H	A	S	■	F	Y	I
T	O	R	O	■	V	E	R	A	■	R	A	N
F	O	R	T	W	O	R	T	H	■	E	R	G
■	■	■	I	O	N	S	■	A	R	E	N	A
G	A	F	F	■	■	■	D	R	A	W	■	■
A	M	I	S	■	T	I	R	A	M	I	S	U
S	O	N	■	D	O	Z	E	N	■	L	O	L
P	R	E	S	U	M	E	D	■	S	L	I	T
■	■	W	I	T	S	■	■	L	A	Y	L	A
H	A	I	T	I	■	T	E	A	S	■	■	■
U	R	N	■	F	L	A	T	W	H	I	T	E
R	O	E	■	U	S	S	R	■	A	L	U	M
T	C	S	■	L	U	K	E	■	Y	E	T	I

Yesterday's answer 8-14

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mila Kunis, 41; Halle Berry, 58; Jackee Harry, 68; Steve Martin, 79.

Happy Birthday: When in doubt, delve into research, educational pursuits and questioning experts. Focus on personal growth and what makes you happy. Explore the possibilities, and refuse to let anyone stand in your way. Uncertainty stems from poor decisions or letting others decide for you. Take control and put your energy behind what excites you. Refuse to let anyone steal your thunder or drain you. Speak up and protect your right to be you. Your numbers are 3, 16, 22, 24, 32, 37, 49.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Advocate personally, professionally and medically on your behalf. Do your research, ask direct questions and decide what's best for you. Don't let the outside influences dictate your fate. Trust your instincts, follow your heart and use forward thinking to reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Pay attention to your spending habits. Indulgent behavior, trying to buy favors or failing to resist temptation will lead to emotional backlash. Talk to someone you trust or go to someone in an authoritative position to ensure you make the most cost-efficient decision. Commit to improving your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Oversee every change personally. If you allow someone to take control, the outcome will disappoint you. Set standards and put your wish list in place, and you'll figure out what's feasible and how to make it happen. Refuse to let emotional issues escalate or lead to poor decisions. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Discipline, continuity, and going beyond the call of duty will pay off. An open dialogue will help solve pending problems and point you in a direction that brings about positive change and eases stress that can lead to illness and regret. Choose peace over chaos. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Step into the spotlight and do what you do best; use your skills. Don't let anyone talk you into spending on things you don't need or make you feel inadequate. Recognize your attributes, present what you can offer and make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pick and choose wisely. If you take on too much, you'll fall short. Focus on what's significant to you; it will take you on a memorable journey. The choice is yours, so don't let anyone tell you what to pursue. Trust your instincts and follow your heart. 2 stars

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Looking the other way will put you in an awkward position. Weigh the pros and cons, don't jeopardize a meaningful connection or put yourself in harm's way, but make sure you can live with your decision. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Look at contracts, investments and medical matters carefully. Test and research to ensure you know all obscure options that can spare you from facing the consequences. Scour the internet for documentaries that shed light on your situation, but be cautious of scams. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Emotional matters will escalate quickly. Be aware of your surroundings, be respectful of others, and avoid participating in discussions that challenge your beliefs or vulnerability. Look for the positive in every situation and steer clear of trouble. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep your thoughts to yourself and your eye on your objective. Limit your spending and avoid joint ventures. Look inward, question your prerogative and adjust your plans to suit your needs. A healthy attitude will encourage better decisions and discourage those trying to take advantage of you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep your eyes wide open and refuse to let anyone get the better of you. Be on guard, question information and verify facts. Stick close to home and make your your space into a convenient and functional setting that attracts positive attention and promotes success. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Note what others are doing and do your best to keep up or surpass anyone competing with you. Someone will notice a change you make, so thoroughly review your plans before you put them into play. Pay attention to detail. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, helpful and generous. You are quick-witted and friendly.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7		4		2		8
	3		9		8	7	4	
2	4				7	9		3
	6	2						4
	9				4		8	6
				7	5		2	
8				5	6			
		9						
	2		7		9		5	

Difficulty: ★★★ 8/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	1	3	9	8	7	6	2	5
6	7	8	5	1	2	9	3	4
2	9	5	6	3	4	8	7	1
9	5	2	1	4	8	7	6	3
7	8	1	3	5	6	4	9	2
3	6	4	2	7	9	1	5	8
5	4	9	7	2	1	3	8	6
1	3	7	8	6	5	2	4	9
8	2	6	4	9	3	5	1	7

Difficulty: ★★ 8/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BABY CARROTS Solution: 4 letters

T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	C	V	P
H	S	E	A	S	O	N	A	L	I	O	B	I	E	A
Y	A	D	R	T	A	R	R	A	G	O	N	P	G	R
M	L	A	E	B	H	O	E	A	G	E	P	C	E	S
E	T	L	M	W	S	V	R	N	G	E	A	R	T	L
E	N	A	M	E	O	N	I	A	R	P	L	O	A	E
S	A	M	I	T	I	T	R	A	P	S	U	C	B	Y
E	R	R	S	S	U	O	G	E	N	N	N	K	L	Y
E	U	A	H	O	R	U	T	A	E	I	C	P	E	R
H	A	M	R	A	S	I	C	M	P	P	H	O	S	A
C	T	P	N	N	Z	K	M	I	N	I	E	T	M	M
E	S	G	W	E	H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	A	E
U	E	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	V	E	C	I	L	S
L	R	E	N	N	I	D	L	I	O	E	V	I	L	O
B	R	E	A	K	F	A	S	T	F	L	A	V	O	R

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Appetizer, Blue Cheese, Boil, Breakfast, Brown Sugar, Crock Pot, Dinner, Flavor, Garnish, Harvest, Herbs, Lunch, Marmalade, Menu, Mint, Olive Oil, Orange, Organic, Oven, Parsley, Peel, Pepper, Restaurant, Rosemary, Salt, Seasonal, Simmer, Slice, Small, Snack, Sprouting, Stew, Stove, Tarragon, Thanksgiving, Thin, Thyme, Vegetable, Vinegar

Yesterday's Answer: Modern Wing

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

US again beats China in Olympic medals table after they tie for gold

PARIS (AP)—The contest for most gold medals at the Paris Olympics ended in a 40-40 tie between China and the United States.

But the U.S. topped the medals table with a whopping 126 overall, compared to 91 for China. At the Tokyo Games, the U.S. also edged China in the medal count, finishing with 113 overall and 39 golds, compared to 89 medals with 38 gold for China.

AP

Simone Biles, of the United States, holds up her medals after the women's artistic gymnastics individual apparatus finals Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 5, 2024, in Paris, France.

Who was supposed to lead the medal count at the Paris Games?

According to Nielsen's Gracenote virtual medal-table forecast, which collected results data from big competitions since the Tokyo Games, the top five for overall medals in Paris was going to be as follows: The U.S. (112 overall medals); China (86); Britain (63); France (60) and Australia (54).

The U.S. did top the medals table. However, the U.S. and China both upped their gold and overall medal counts.

Japan proved the virtual predictors wrong by sneaking into third place with 20 golds among its 45 medals.

France and Australia were in the top five as predicted, but the other way around.

Skateboard star Keegan Palmer helped Australia go fourth with 18 golds among 53 medals, while fifth-place France tallied 16 golds among its 64 medals.

Britain got more medals than in Tokyo—65 to 64—but had less golds and was seventh overall behind the Netherlands.

Here's a closer look at the some of the nations:

Great haul of China, as team dominates diving

When Cao Yuan defended his title in the men's 10-meter platform on Saturday, it gave his nation an unprecedented sweep of the diving gold medals.

China won all eight golds handed out at the Olympic Aquatics Centre.

China won five golds in each of shooting, table tennis and weightlifting, with China's victory in the team event in table tennis giving the country its 300th gold in Olympic history.

Golds galore for USA on track, but no medal in women's water polo

Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone broke her own world record in the 400-meter hurdles as the U.S. won 14 golds in track and field.

Noah Lyles won a historically close men's 100-meter race, and Gabrielle Thomas took the women's 200. Quincy Hall won the men's 400 at a Stade de France, which grew accustomed to hearing the American national anthem.

Gymnastics star Simone Biles added to her growing fame with four more medals, and the swimmers, led by another Olympic great in Katie Ledecky, grabbed eight golds.

The men's and women's basketball teams won their tournaments, both beating France in the finals. The U.S. women survived the biggest challenge of their unprecedented run to eight straight Olympic gold medals with a 67-66 win to close out competition at the Paris Games.

But the U.S. women's water polo team went home empty handed after high expectations.

France exceed expectations

Led by the brilliant performances of Léon Marchand, who finished with five medals overall, Les Bleus won one more gold than Atlanta in 1996 and nearly doubled their 33 medals overall from the Tokyo Games three years ago.

Rugby star Antoine Dupont got the ball bouncing by leading France to gold in the rugby sevens, then Marchand took over.

Heavyweight judo star Teddy Riner added another gold as the French judo team walked away with a whopping 10 medals.

The men's handball team disappointed, though, failing to get a medal when defending their title, although the women did get silver.

The track and field team only got one medal late on, however, with Cyrena Samba-Mayela getting silver in the women's 110 hurdles on Saturday.

Who else made an impression?

Four of Germany's 12 gold medals came in equestrian, with veteran dressage rider Isabell Werth extending her Olympic equestrian record to 14 medals.

Teen sensation Summer McIntosh got three swimming gold medals and a silver for Canada, which ended the Games with nine golds among its 27 medals.

One of Sweden's four golds came from pole vaulter Armand Duplantis, who stunned the 80,000 fans at Stade de France by breaking his own world record.

Tennis star Novak Djokovic won an emotional gold medal for Serbia, which again won the men's water polo final and finished with three golds among its five medals.

Imane Khelif won one of Algeria's two golds, emerging from a tumultuous run at the Games where she endured intense scrutiny over her sex.

Manu Bhaker earned two of India's six medals. The 22-year-old became the first Indian woman to win a medal in shooting, taking a bronze in 10-meter air pistol and adding another in the mixed team event.

After winning medals at track, it was time for athletes to eat, drink and party on an Olympic level

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP)—They won their Olympic medals after making so many sacrifices and spending so many hours training. Then came the fun part—celebrating with family and friends, even strangers.

Newly minted medalists in track and field went out for meals to toast their accomplishments. Some hit the dance floor, while others took a dip in the pool. There were those who went straight to bed—too exhausted to go out—and those who spent time answering the hundreds and hundreds of messages that lit up their phone.

"I've never been so locked in in my life than in these past three months," Swedish pole vaulter Armand "Mondo" Duplantis said after defending his Olympic gold by setting a world record. "Now I'm just ready to eat a bunch of food. The party is going to be pretty big."

Chicken craving

Pole vault silver medalist Sam Kendricks craved chicken from the fast-food restaurant Popeyes. Only trouble, it was late at night and the place was closed.

His buddy Duplantis, though, had some connections, and made a call. A little bit later, they were feasting on chicken wings.

"Best chicken ever. But I can't just summon Popeyes like that. I'm not the world record holder," Kendricks cracked as he and his family partied at the Puma House until the early hours. "Mondo was still swimming and playing water polo until about 6."

Dance the night away

First, Nina Kennedy of Australia had a bunch of media interviews after winning gold in the pole vault. But she finished up about 3 a.m. and headed straight for the dance club.

She danced and danced until the sun came up.

"One of the best nights of my life," Kennedy said. "It was so much fun."

Pizza Party

Mattia Furlani, the 19-year-old who won a bronze in the long jump, celebrated like any good Italian would—with pizza. He devoured a pizza margherita (a cheese pizza).

It doesn't get much more Italian than that.

Julien Alfred, the sprinter from St. Lucia who won gold in the 100 and silver in the 200, was focused on one thing from the moment she received her second medal—"Unhealthy food," she said.

"I'm not going to lie," Alfred added. "Because for the past few days I've been eating very healthy and I think I deserve (it). A pizza ... I really crave that."

Her toppings of choice? Ham and pineapple—Hawaiian style—or pepperoni.

American pole vaulter Katie Moon went for pepperoni pizza and pasta, too, despite a gluten intolerance. It was the only place open at the time.

She and her family found a dive bar and settled into a back room to celebrate her silver.

She had a glass of wine, too.

"Everything," Moon said, "tasted so good."

Come on in

Alysha Newman and her family were looking for a restaurant after earning a bronze for Canada in the pole vault. But nothing was open at that hour.

They saw a pub just outside the Olympic village that was about to close. The owner, though, was watching the Olympics, happened to recognize Newman and invited them in. Not only that, but he cooked for her party of about 15 and stayed there until 4 a.m. They feasted on homemade pesto pasta with shrimp and mushrooms.

She had a glass of red wine to go with it.

"It was awesome," Newman said. "A really fun environment."

Burger time

At around 2 a.m., American discus thrower Valarie Allman bit into the best burger she ever tasted. The sides included fries—and memories of defending her gold medal.

"It was literally, perfect," she said.

The burger had the works, too—cheese, tomato, onions, pickles and sauce.

"That hit the spot," she said.

Off to sleep

It was already a long two days for British heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson. But after two hours of interviews and two more hours to get through drug testing protocols, the silver medalist only wanted to return to the village and sleep.

"Pending," Johnson-Thompson said of her celebration plans.

Toasting with steak and tequila?

After winning the long jump title, American Tara Davis-Woodhall was hungering for a sirloin steak.

Along with it, "a tequila shot or something," Davis-Woodhall said of her plans with her husband, Paralympian sprinter Hunter Woodhall.

Celebrating with—broccoli?

Not all athletes were in search of pizza, steak or a burger. Annette Nneka Echikunwoke, the American silver medalist in the hammer throw, had a more healthy wish list: salmon and broccoli.

For dessert?

"Maybe some sour candy," Echikunwoke said. "Sour candy hurts my stomach, that's why it's been low key. But it doesn't matter now."

Popular person

If responding to congratulatory texts were an Olympic discipline, Andy Diaz would be in the running for another medal. The Cuban-born triple jumper who took bronze in his debut for Italy was busy all night trying to keep up with his constantly buzzing phone.

"Every time I take it out of my pocket," Diaz said, "I have at least 100 messages."

Silver's great, gold is better

Norway's Karsten Warholm won silver in the 400-meter hurdles three years after winning the event. He had a low-key celebration—one glass of champagne—with family and friends.

"To me, silver is not something I would get super drunk for," said Warholm, the world-record holder in the event. "You've got to let the moment sink in and have a good time with the people that helped you get there. But still it's not something I celebrate super hard."

Steer homers twice, drives in 5 runs as Reds beat Cardinals

CINCINNATI (AP)—Spencer Steer homered in consecutive at-bats and drove in five runs, and Elly De La Cruz hit his team-leading 21st homer as the Cincinnati Reds beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 on Monday night.

Andrew Abbott (10-9) allowed one run and five hits in 6 2/3 innings to snap his three-game losing streak. The left-hander was tagged for 12 earned runs over his previous 13 1/3 innings.

"I was spinning the ball and getting first-pitch strikes," Abbott said. "It was all mental between this start and last start. I went out there with a plan and tried to execute the best way you can."

Cardinals starter Sonny Gray (11-7) struck out nine in five innings, but is winless in three career starts against his former club. He gave up six runs and five hits, including three homers.

"He was electric first time through," St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. "Punched out, what, seven? He was executing pitches. He was doing what he wanted. But a couple good swings by Steer and De La Cruz."

Abbott retired 11 straight batters during one stretch and finished with six strikeouts. He escaped bases-loaded jams in the second and third.

"That's the difference," Marmol said. "We're going to have to do a better job with runners in scoring position. That's the key for ourselves moving forward."

Steer and De La Cruz homered on successive pitches from Gray to put Cincinnati ahead 3-1 in the third. It was the fifth time this season the Reds hit back-to-back homers.

Steer, who batted leadoff for the third time this year and fifth time in his career, struck again in the fifth with a three-run shot to make it 6-1.

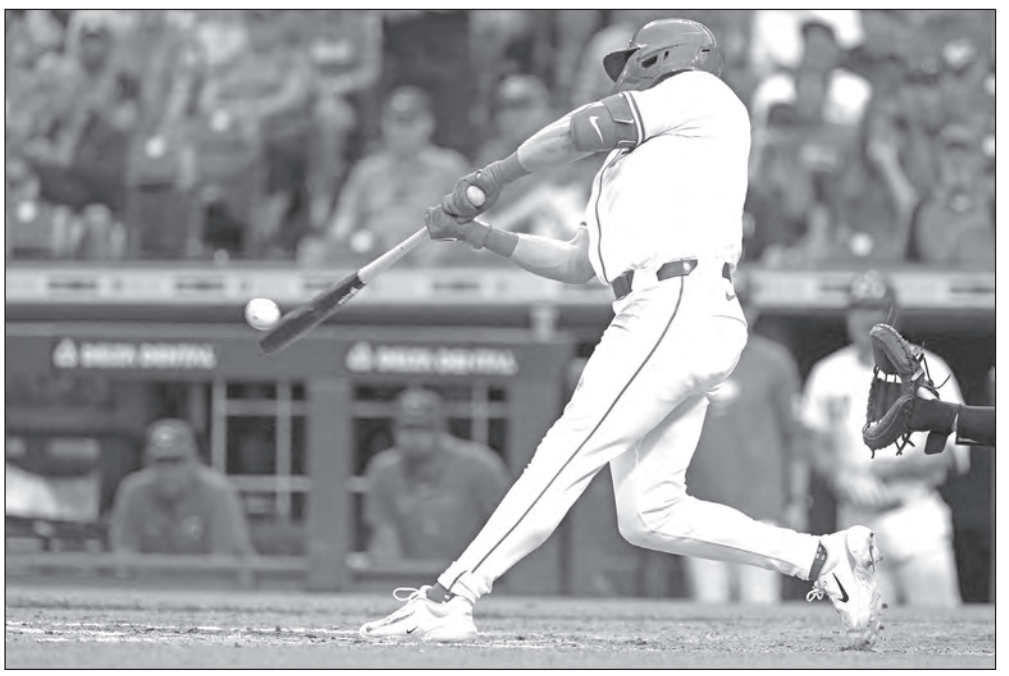
"It is fun to move around," Steer said. "Batting leadoff is great. It's a great opportunity to get that first at-bat for the team and set the tone. That's the way I look at it, at least. It's a tone setter for the rest of the game."

It was Steer's first career multi-homer game. He has 18 home runs this season.

"He's just a good ballplayer," Reds manager David Bell said. "Leading off kind of just put him out there. He came up with a big game."

Gray has given up 17 home runs this season, two shy of his career high set in 2017 with Toronto and 2021 with Cincinnati.

"Got to find a way to keep the ball in the ballpark," Gray said. "I think if you look at it as a whole, my strikeouts are up, my walks are down. Just my homers are way up. I don't know what that is yet."



AP

Cincinnati Reds' Spencer Steer follows through on a three-run home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Monday, Aug. 12, 2024, in Cincinnati.

Marmol was ejected by plate umpire Stu Scheurwater in the fifth after arguing a called ball. It was Marmol's fourth ejection this season and the 13th of his career.

ASTROS 6, RAYS 1

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Framber Valdez followed up his no-hit bid with 5 2/3 strong innings, and the AL West-leading won their six straight game by beating Tampa Bay.

Alex Bregman and Yainer Diaz homered for the Astros, who lead the division by one-half game over idle Seattle.

Valdez (12-5) improved to 7-0 in his last nine starts after allowing three hits, one walk and striking out nine. The lefty was pulled after walking Yandy Díaz on his 101st pitch.

Tayler Scott and Kaleb Ort completed a four-hitter.

GUARDIANS 9, CUBS 8

CLEVELAND (AP)—Josh Naylor drove in José Ramírez with the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Cleveland held on for a win over the Chicago Cubs.

Rookie Jhonkensy Noel hit a three-run homer and solo shot, and he made a diving catch in right field to save a couple runs for the AL Central-leading Guardians, who returned home after splitting a tense, four-game series at second-place Minnesota.

Steven Kwan added a two-run homer as the Guardians improved the league's best home record to 36-20.

Ramírez opened the eighth with a double off Julian Merryweather (1-1) and pinch-hitter Will Brennan singled before Naylor bounced his base hit into left.

The Cubs led 3-0 and then fell behind 8-3 before tying it with four runs in the seventh and one in the eighth off Cleveland's vaunted bullpen.

TWINS 8, ROYALS 3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Willi Castro had a three-run home run and Royce Lewis hit a two-run shot in a six-run second inning for Minnesota on the way to a victory over Kansas City to open a key series between the division rivals and close wild card competitors.

The Twins, who improved to 6-2 against the Royals this season, remained 3 1/2 games behind American League Central leader Cleveland after splitting a four-game series with the Guardians during the weekend. The third-place Royals dropped to five games back.

The Twins (66-52) occupy the second AL wild card spot. The Royals (65-54) control the third spot, with a two-game cushion above the cut in their refreshing push to return to the playoffs for the first time since they won the 2015 World Series.

DODGERS 5, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Mookie Betts homered and drove in three runs to mark his return from a broken left hand, Shohei Ohtani also went deep and the Los Angeles defeated Milwaukee.

Clayton Kershaw struck out six in his first win this season, allowing one run over 5 2/3 innings as the Dodgers took the opener of a four-game series between NL division leaders.

The Dodgers activated Betts from the injured list earlier in the day and had him playing right field and batting second, with Ohtani leading off. Betts primarily had been playing shortstop and leading off this year before his hand got hit by a 98 mph fastball from Kansas City's Dan Altavilla on June 16.

Milwaukee cut Los Angeles' lead to 4-2 in the sixth when William Contreras greeted Joe Kelly with a two-out, two-run homer to right. Willy Adames and Gary Sánchez then hit back-to-back singles to put the potential tying run on base before Kelly struck out Rhys Hoskins to end the rally.

RED SOX 5, RANGERS 4, 10 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—Rob Refsnyder hit a game-winning single with two outs in the 10th inning after pinch-hitter Enmanuel Valdez's double tied the score, lifting Boston to a 5-4 victory over fading Texas to snap a four-game losing streak Monday night.

Corey Seager had a tying, two-run homer for defending World Series champion Texas (55-64), which lost for the ninth time in 12 games to fall a season-low nine games under .500.

With automatic runner Romy Gonzalez on second, Valdez hit a drive to the edge of the triangle in right-center off Gerson Garabito (0-1) that just got past Leody Taveras and bounced into the stands for a ground-rule double.

Nick Sogard blooped a single to center and Mickey Gasper drew a one-out walk in his major league debut against Walter Pennington to load the bases. Following a force at home on Masataka Yoshida's grounder, Refsnyder hit a 2-0 pitch for the winner.

Josh Winckowski (3-1) got the victory.

WHITE SOX 12, YANKEES 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Gavin Sheets matched a career high with four hits and drove in four runs, Korey Lee and Brooks Baldwin homered, and the Chicago White Sox gave interim manager Grady Sizemore his first win, pounding the New York Yankees.

The White Sox set season highs for runs and with 18 hits. They had lost three straight since beating Oakland to stop a 21-game skid that matched an American League record.

Lee connected leading off a two-run fourth against Yankees starter Luis Gil. Baldwin capped a six-run seventh with a three-run drive against Enyel De Los Santos that made it 11-2.

Sheets hit RBI doubles in a two-run first, in the fifth against Tim Hill and in the seventh off De Los Santos. He also scored in the inning on a single by Dominic Fletcher, and singled in a run in the eighth.

Andrew Vaughn had four hits and scored twice, helping the White Sox take out a team that came in tied with Baltimore for baseball's best record.

New York's Aaron Judge doubled in a run in the first against rookie Ky Bush. He came a few feet short of his 300th home run and a grand slam when he hit a fly to the warning track in the second.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROCKIES 4

PHOENIX (AP)—Corbin Carroll and Kevin Newman scrambled home on back-to-back wild pitches in the seventh inning, leading Arizona past Colorado for their fourth straight win.

The D-backs continued their extended roll, with an 18-5 record since the All-Star break.

Joc Pederson came to the plate in the seventh with Arizona trailing 4-3, two outs and runners on first and third, but he never had to hit the ball to put his team ahead. Tyler Kinley's first wild pitch scored Carroll easily and Newman advanced all the way to third after getting a head start while stealing second.

Two pitches later, Kinley bounced another pitch that catcher Elias Díaz couldn't quite handle. Newman made a daring dash home, sliding in ahead of the throw for the lead.

Jake McCarthy added two hits and two RBIs. Newman and Josh Bell also had two hits. Justin Martinez handled the ninth—working around a leadoff single—for his third save.

BLUE JAYS 4, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Bowden Francis pitched seven dominant innings and Will Wagner got hits in the first three at-bats of his major league debut as Toronto beat the Los Angeles Angels.

Leo Jiménez launched his first career home run and the last-place Blue Jays won the opener of a six-game trip after losing four of their previous five road games.

Mickey Moniak and Jo Adell homered for the Angels, who lost for the third time in four games after earning a series win on the road against the New York Yankees.

PADRES 2, PIRATES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Xander Bogaerts had an RBI single in the seventh inning, Jackson Merrell made a game-saving diving catch in the ninth inning, and Joe Musgrove had a solid return from the 60-day injured list as San Diego beat Pittsburgh.

Musgrove, sidelined since May 26 due to right elbow inflammation, gave up two hits and walked one while striking out one in 4 1/3 scoreless innings. He pitched effectively, mixing his sliders, changeups and four-seam fastballs.

When Musgrove came out of the game in the fifth inning, he received a standing ovation from the 38th sold-out crowd of the season at Petco Park. He patted his heart and waived to the crowd while walking into the dugout.

Jeremiah Estrada (4-2) got the win for the Padres after pitching one inning in relief and closer Robert Suarez earned his 26th save after giving up two singles and a run in the ninth inning.

BRAVES 1, GIANTS 0, 10 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Chris Sale and Blake Snell put on a pitching show Monday night in a matchup of aces before Atlanta edged San Francisco on Travis d'Arnaud's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning.

Snell carried a no-hit bid through six innings, 10 days after throwing his first career no-hitter at Cincinnati. The left-hander gave up Marcell Ozuna's leadoff double in the seventh on his 103rd pitch.

Matt Olson followed with an infield single, but Snell struck out Orlando Arcia before getting pulled. The two-time Cy Young Award winner struck out 11 and walked three.

Sale fanned 12 without a walk in seven innings of three-hit ball. The eight-time All-Star lowered his ERA to 2.61 in his first season with Atlanta, which moved a game ahead of the New York Mets for the final National League wild card.

Markkanen agrees to multiyear deal to remain with Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Lauri Markkanen received a five-year, $238 million contract with Utah on Wednesday, according to his agent, ensuring the Jazz have a key element in their rebuilding plans.

Agent Michael Lelchitski of Sports International Group also said the deal includes $220 million in new money, and his salary for next season increases by $24 million. Markkanen's deal had one year left at $18 million before the new agreement.

"I'm excited to get this extension done," Markkanen said in a video message posted on X. "I'm ready to get back to work and build with this franchise."42,.

He also thanked Jazz management for getting the deal done.

"Lauri's ability to score in multiple ways and his versatility as a player makes our team better," Jazz CEO Danny Ainge said in a statement. "He embodies our team's core values on and off the court. We're glad that he wants to be a part of our future and what we're building here in Utah."

Utah locks up a player who has averaged 24.5 points since being traded to the club two years ago. Markkanen, a 7-footer who can extend the court with his 3-point prowess, was named the NBA's Most Improved Player in his first Jazz season and appeared on his first All-Star team.

He played his first five seasons with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Chicago Bulls. His highest scoring average was 18.7 points in the 2018-19 season in Chicago.

Dirk Nowitzki and Channing Frye are the only other 7-footers to make 1,000 3-pointers in NBA history, according to ESPN Stats & Information.

The Jazz acquired Markkanen in a September 2022 trade that sent Donovan Mitchell to Cleveland. Markkanen's contract extension shows he is a key part of Utah's rebuilding plans under Ainge and general manager Justin Zanik.

"Lauri's combination of size, skill, and shooting is really unique, and he's proved he's an All-Star level player with his improvement over the past two seasons," Zanik said in a statement. "We're excited that he shares the same vision of what our team can be long-term and to have him not only as a building block for the Jazz, but also as a member of the Utah community for years to come, is huge."

Utah comes off a 31-51 record, its worst season in 10 years. The Jazz also have had consecutive losing seasons for the first time since 2016, but they answered that prior three-year losing streak by making the playoffs the next six seasons.

AP

Utah Jazz forward Lauri Markkanen (23) looks for an opening against Dallas Mavericks defender P.J. Washington (25) during an NBA basketball game in Dallas, March 21, 2024.

With new contract—at a discount price—and new title, Jalen Brunson is eager to lead Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson gave the New York Knicks a $113 million discount in potential salary and they gave him the title of team captain.

Two seasons into a partnership that has helped produce the Knicks' greatest success in a quarter of a century, it's clear the team and player believe in each other. Now they have at least a few more years to determine if it can yield something more.

"This is literally just the beginning," Brunson said Thursday.

The Knicks staged a ceremonial event at Madison Square Garden for Brunson, complete with former Knicks stars such as Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing and celebrities that included actor and Knicks fan Ben Stiller. Ewing narrated a video that included a picture of him with Brunson as a boy, when his father, Rick, played for the Knicks.

"People just want to be around you, Jalen," Ewing said on the video. "You're a born leader."

That attracted the Knicks to Brunson just as much as his playing skills when they signed him in the summer of 2022. Coach Tom Thibodeau, who had Rick Brunson as one of his assistant coaches in Chicago and again in New York, watched Brunson grow up and noticed not only how hard he worked, but how other players gravitated to him.

But even some of those players couldn't be blamed if they questioned Brunson's financial sense this summer.

He signed a four-year contract extension that is worth about $156.5 million. Had Brunson finished the final year of his current deal next season and then become a free agent, he would have been eligible for a five-year, $269 million contract.

Other players have taken less than their maximum allowable salary. Few would even consider passing on an extra $113 million.

"I think about every decision that I make and I'm completely comfortable with what I've done," Brunson said.

"Obviously I'm well off, myself and my family, we're obviously well off, so that's first and foremost. But I want to win. I want to win here."

Brunson's financial sacrifice certainly helps make that easier, with harsher penalties for teams over the salary cap now part of the NBA's collective bargaining agreement. And with the Knicks giving OG Anunoby a five-year deal worth more than $210 million, trading for Mikal Bridges and with Julius Randle also eligible for an extension, it wouldn't be easy to build a winning team and then keep it together, so Brunson doesn't question his decision.

"Winning trumps everything that I do individually," Brunson said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	70	49	.588	–
New York	70	50	.583	½
Boston	62	55	.530	7
Tampa Bay	59	59	.500	10½
Toronto	55	64	.462	15
Central Division				
Cleveland	70	49	.588	–
Minnesota	66	52	.559	3½
Kansas City	65	54	.546	5
Detroit	56	63	.471	14
Chicago	29	91	.242	41½
West Division				
Houston	63	55	.534	–
Seattle	63	56	.529	½
Texas	55	64	.462	8½
Los Angeles	52	67	.437	11½
Oakland	50	69	.420	13½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	69	49	.585	–
Atlanta	62	56	.525	7
New York	61	57	.517	8
Washington	54	65	.454	15½
Miami	44	75	.370	25½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	67	51	.568	–
St. Louis	60	59	.504	7½
Chicago	59	61	.492	9
Cincinnati	58	61	.487	9½
Pittsburgh	56	62	.475	11
West Division				
Los Angeles	70	49	.588	–
Arizona	67	53	.558	3½
San Diego	67	53	.558	3½
San Francisco	61	60	.504	10
Colorado	44	76	.367	26½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SBL STANDINGS

Falcons	9	1		
Bandits	8	2		
Padres	8	2		
Cardinals	7	3		
Sandlot	6	4		
Braves	6	4		
Blue Jays	6	4		
Royals	5	5		
Bears	4	6		
D-9er's	3	7		
White Sox	2	8		
Natives	1	9		
Blue Shark	0	10		

DESTROYERS STANDINGS

Islander Rent A Car	7	0		
GMP x Yuman	6	1		
Savemore	5	2		
Saipan Tigers	3	4		
Jacob's Bakeshop	3	4		
Team Underground	2	5		
Star Water	2	5		
Triskelion	0	7		

U15

From page 16

Flores, Beatrice Gross, Angel Calayag, Alyssa Brasuell, Stacy Arriola, Miley Mafnas, Iris Rasa, Talina Aguon-McClure, Aubrey White, Va'aina Reyes, Rhodalyn Palumar, Maya Jung, and Kaye Anne Costales.

The team officials include head of delegation Luam Khen Koo, head coach Chi Ming Tang, assistant coaches Mae Ito and Ronnel Ocanada, team manager Bernadette Horey, assistant team manager Yu Hung Lee, and physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

Borlongan, one of the team's captains, said during the ceremony, "We want to give a heartfelt thanks to our coaches, Mr. Jerry Tan, NMIFA, and the community for the dedication you've shown our team throughout this journey. To our parents: we would not be able to stand here today representing the NMI without your encouragement and unwavering support. We are extremely grateful for you."

Gross, co-team captain of the team, for her part, said, "The team is committed to doing their best in the competition. We have been working hard since January, and we can't wait to compete in the international tournament. We are eager to represent NMI and demonstrate our dedication to soccer. Your encouragement truly means a lot to us!"

Costales, another co-captain is based in Portland, Oregon, and will join the team later.

During the sendoff, the NMI Women's National Team and the NMI Men's U20 National Team were also recognized for their stellar performances during the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup and the Marianas Football Cup 2024 last July and earlier this month.

Players received $200 and a gift certificate for one night's stay at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

PADRES

From page 16

The Padres' pitching staff went on to shut down the Royals' offense in the last inning and won by just two runs.

Meanwhile, the Natives' swan song ended with their only win of the season after beating the White Sox, 8-4, last Friday.

The Natives drew first blood as the top two batters—Cam Towai and Tim Deleon Guerrero—scored two runs for an early 2-0 lead. The White Sox could not find the ball and left the first inning without a run, while the Natives put up four more in the second for a 6-0 game.

The White Sox finally rounded the bases and got on board in the fourth from a run by J.J. Laniyo to make it 1-6. However, the Natives went on to score two more, while the White Sox's last-minute signs of life came too little too late as they scored three in the last inning, for an 4-8 final.

In the final regular season standings, the Falcons clinched the pennant with their 9-1 record; Bandits and Padres are tied at 8-2; the Cardinals are at 7-3; Sandlot, Braves, and Blue Jays are 6-4 each; and Royals are at an even 5-5; Bears are 4-6; D-9er's are 3-7; White Sox are 2-8; Natives are 1-9; while Blue Shark lost all their games at 10 losses.

The postseason schedule has yet to be determined.

JACOB

From page 16

each; and Triskelion have yet to win at seven losses.

The first round of the playoffs stage is set for this Sunday, Aug. 18. The Saipan Tigers are taking on Jacob's Bakeshop at 8:30am; Savemore faces off against Team Underground at 10am; GMP x Yuman takes on Star Water at 11:30am; and Islander Rent A Car battles Triskelion at 1pm.

Jacob's Bakeshop 92 – Gatbonton 19, Sy 19, Aycardo 17, Malonzo 13, Delos Reyes 7, De Guzman 7, Repulda 6, Dominguez 2, Jacob 2.

Star Water 57 – Giron 14, Barrios 12, Godoy 10, J. De Leon 8, Adelbai 4, C. De Leon 3, Dizon 2, Canolo 2, Gallardo 2.

Scoring by halves: 40-22, 92-57.

US again beats China in Olympic medals table after they tie for gold

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Sports

Markkanen agrees to multiyear deal to remain with Jazz

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U15 team off to China for EAFF champs

NMIFA

The NMI Women's U15 National Soccer Team poses for a group photo with the NMI flag during the sendoff ceremony held by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association last Monday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
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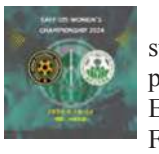
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Federation held a sendoff ceremony for its young NMI Women's U15 National Soccer Team last Monday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



The youngsters are competing in the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 in Dalian, China from Aug. 14 to 24.

The NMI team is in Group B with Hong Kong, Guam, Mongolia, and Macau.

Their first match is against Macau on Friday, Aug. 16, with the second game on Sunday, Aug. 18, vs. Mongolia. Their third matchup is against Hong Kong on Tuesday, Aug. 20, with their last round against rival Guam on Friday, Aug. 23.

The team is made up of Hailey Benavente, Alyssa Borlongan, Mataina Reyes, Elyza Brillo, Jade Pascual, Orica George, Aira Daca, Cassidee

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Jacob's Bakeshop burns down Star Water, 92-57

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Jacob's Bakeshop burned Star Water in a blowout, 92-57, in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Jacob's Bakeshop served up a big loss for Star Water as three key players led the way to a 35-point win. Their dominance was seen right from the tipoff and led on until the end of the first half as Jacob's Bakeshop held an 18-point lead, 40-22.

During the first half, Jacob's Bakeshop's Manuel Gatbonton, Andrew Sy, and Mark Aycardo punished Star Water from within the paint and outside the perimeter. Aycardo opened up the game with a three that propelled their momentum to great heights down the line.

Gatbonton and Sy provided cover from inside as Gatbonton scored 9 points, while Sy put up 12 in the first half. Aycardo continued his onslaught of threes in the second half and collected five successful attempts from downtown.

LEIGH GASES

Jacob's Bakeshop's Irvyn Malonzo goes up for a contested layup and draws a foul during their game against Star Water in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Star Water's Arjay Giron, Bodie Barrios, and Jon Godoy tried to fan the flames that Jacob's Bakeshop trailed through the courts, but by the start of the second half, it was too little too late.

The closest Star Water came to Jacob's Bakeshop's lead was just a little over double digits later in the second half, but they could not capitalize as Jacob's Bakeshop starting five and bench had a field day with turnovers and fast-break plays.

Jacob's Bakeshop's Gatbonton and Sy twinned up for 19 points, while Aycardo was right behind at 17 points. Meanwhile, Giron put up 14 points, while Barrios scored 12, and Godoy collected 10 markers for Star Water.

In the standings, Islander Rent A Car is still undefeated at seven wins; GMP x Yuman is at 6-1; Save More is at 5-2; Saipan Tigers and Jacob's Bakeshop are 3-4 each; Star Water and Team Underground have a 2-5 record

See JACOB on Page 15

LEIGH GASES

Jacob's Bakeshop's Justin Dominguez, left swerves past a Star Water defender during their game in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Sunday.

Padres, Natives bag wins in last regular season games

LEIGH GASES

File photo shows Padres starting pitcher Jose Deleon Guerrero in action during their game against the Braves last week in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Padres and Natives bagged wins in the last regular season games of the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League last Friday and Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Last Monday, the Padres won, 5-3, over the Royals.

The game was quiet in the first four innings of the game as both teams could not connect the big hits and left runners on base. The Padres registered just one hit in the first, got one runner in the second off a walk, fell in order in the third, and finally got four runners on base but failed to bring them home.

The Royals were equally in shambles offensively as they didn't record a hit but had three runners on base from walks and an error.

Finally, the Padres' bats came alive in the fifth and they brought in five runs from Jonah Flores, Ben Jones, Jr. Suel, J.P. Sablan, and Austin Benavente. The Royals, on the other hand, came up short as they scored just three in the fifth off Nate Torres, Frank Norita, and Travis Malwebug for a 3-5 game.

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